

EXPRESSIVE ARTS / HUMANITIES · YEAR 3–6

# Awduron Enwog Cymru

Famous Welsh Writers — Years 3–6

## Two giants of Welsh literature

1

### Roald Dahl (1916–1990)

Born in Llandaff, Cardiff, to Norwegian parents. Author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *The BFG*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Witches*, and many more. His work is distinctive for its gleeful subversion — children who outwit adults.

*Example: Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (where he lived and wrote)*

2

### Dylan Thomas (1914–1953)

Born in Swansea. Poet and prose writer. *Under Milk Wood* (a radio play set in the fictional Welsh village of Llareggub), *Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night*, and *And Death Shall Have No Dominion* are his most famous works.

*Example: The Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea*

3

### Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night

Dylan Thomas's most famous poem — a villanelle addressed to his dying father. Repeating refrain: 'Do not go gentle into that good night, / Rage, rage against the dying of the light.'

4

### Under Milk Wood

A 'play for voices' originally written for BBC radio. Set in the fictional Welsh fishing village of Llareggub (read backwards). Celebrates the everyday life of ordinary Welsh people.

## Roald Dahl's Welsh connection

How Wales shaped him

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Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, Cardiff, on 13 September 1916 to Harald and Sofie Dahl (Norwegian immigrants).



- He was named after the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen.
- His children's books often feature a kind, intelligent child triumphing over stupid, cruel, or greedy adults — a pattern some see in his own difficult early experiences.
- Matilda is often described as Dahl's most personal book — a child escaping through intelligence and books.
- Roald Dahl Day is celebrated on 13 September — his birthday.
- Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity provides grants for children's health in memory of Roald and his daughter Olivia.

