

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Today marks the 100th anniversary of the first publication of *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A.A. Milne.

The story of Pooh begins in 1914 when Lieutenant Harry Colebourn bought a black bear cub from a Canadian Hunter and named her Winnie, after his hometown of Winnipeg. He brought her to England when his regiment was transferred to England and when they left for French front line he place Winnie in the care of London Zoo.

The tame Winnie was popular with visitors to the zoo, including Milne's son, Christopher Robin who named his toy bear 'Winnie' after her. He had other toys named Piglet, Eeyore and Tigger among others. A decade later, Alan Milne was a playwright and decided to write a children's book about the adventures of Pooh, his friends and a young boy named after his son in the Hundred Acre Wood, which was inspired by Ashdown Forest in Sussex.

The book and its sequel, **illustrated** by Ernest (E.H.) Shepard, became enormously popular, but fame had an unexpected downside. The real Christopher Robin was bullied at school because of the stories and later resented his father for using his name and childhood toys and was eventually estranged from his parents. 100 years later, Pooh and his friends still appear in books, tv and film, and are popular all over the world.



- How would you feel if your parent put your name and toys in a children's book?
- Do you have any toys that would make a good children's book character?
- Do you think Pooh would have been so popular without Ernest Shepard's illustrations?

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