

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Happy
Birthday

Happy Birthday to writer Dame Julia Donaldson who turns 78 today. She studied French & Drama at University where she learned guitar and met her future husband, Malcolm. Julia and Malcolm spent many summers **busking** around Europe and Julia wrote many new fun songs about their adventures to play on the streets.

She had a talent for writing songs and during the 70s she wrote many songs for BBC Children's TV before briefly working as a teacher and then bringing up her children. In 1991 a publisher approached her asking if one of her 70s songs, *A Squash and a Squeeze* could be turned into a children's book. It was a success and she began writing more rhyming children's books. Her biggest seller, *The Gruffalo* came next in 1999 and only existed because it was hard to find a rhyme with 'tiger'.

She is now the biggest selling British author of all time having written more than 60 books and 120 more for the *Songbird Phonics* series. Meanwhile *The Gruffalo* has sold more than 17 million copies in 27 years representing millions of children introduced to reading with the rhyme "Oh, help! Oh, no! It's a gruffalo!"



- Were you read Julia's books as a child? What's your favourite of her books and why is it *Room On The Broom*?
- Have you ever read a book to a younger child? Did you enjoy it?
- What makes a good book for young children?

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Happy Birthday to writer Dame Julia Donaldson who turns 78 today. In her early 20s she spent summers **busking** around Europe where she would write fun songs about the places she visited.

She wrote songs for Children's TV in the 70s before bringing up her children. In 1991 a publisher approached asking if her song *A Squash and a Squeeze* could be turned into a book. She then wrote *The Gruffalo* which only came about because 'tiger' was too hard to rhyme with.

The Gruffalo has since sold 17m copies, representing millions of children introduced to reading with the rhyme "Oh, help! Oh, no! It's a gruffalo!"



- What's your favourite of her Julia's books and why is it *Room On The Broom*?
- Have you ever read a book to a younger child?