

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Happy
Birthday

Happy 80th Birthday to author Philip Pullman. Born in Norwich, he had an unsettled childhood. His pilot father died in a plane crash when he was 7. His mother remarried and they moved around the world before settling in North Wales. He loved listening to the stories told by his mother and his grandfather who was a Church of England vicar. But he also loved American superhero comics, particularly Superman and Batman.

After studying English at Oxford, Pullman became a middle school English teacher and wrote stories alongside his teaching career. He was able to quit teaching after his fourth book in 1985, but had his greatest success a decade later with *Northern Lights* the first in *His Dark Materials* trilogy for young people which follows the adventures of Lyra, a young girl navigating parallel universes where humans have animal companions called daemons, which are a **physical manifestation** of their souls.

The trilogy have been turned into theatre, film and TV ([trailer](#)). Pullman has written many other books, but he returned to Lyra in 2017, writing another trilogy with one prequel and two sequels *The Book of Dust* trilogy, concluded Lyra's story and was published in 2025.



- If your soul was represented by an animal daemon which animal would yours be?
- Have you ever read any Philip Pullman books? What did you think?

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Happy
Birthday

Happy 80th Birthday to author Philip Pullman. He worked as a teacher and writer, but after gaining publishing success quit teaching in 1985.

His greatest success came a decade later with *His Dark Materials* trilogy for young people which follows the adventures of Lyra, a young girl navigating parallel universes where humans animal daemons companions, a **physical manifestation** of their souls.

The trilogy have been turned into theatre, film and TV ([trailer](#)) and he recently wrote *The Book of Dust*, another trilogy featuring Lyra.



- If your soul was represented by an animal daemon which animal would yours be?