

## David Walliams Biographical Information

- David Walliams is a British comedian and writer.
- He performed on television as a comedian for many years before he began writing for children.
- His children's books have been published in 53 languages and sold more than 18 million copies.

### Early Life and Schooling

- David Edward Williams was born on August 20, 1971, in London, England.
- His father was an engineer, and his mother was a lab technician.
- He attended the University of Bristol from 1988 to 1992. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in drama.
- When he joined an actors' union, Williams had to change the spelling of his last name because there was already a member named David Williams.

### Career

- With comedian Matt Lucas, Williams cowrote and co-starred in a comedy sketch show called *Little Britain* from 2003 to 2005.
- Williams continued to appear in other television programs. In 2010 he joined with Lucas again for the series *Come Fly with Me*.
- Williams' first book, *The Boy in the Dress*, was released in 2008. The book was illustrated by Quentin Blake. *The Boy in the Dress* is about a boy who loves football and fashion.
- Eleven other novels for children followed.

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- These included *Mr. Stink* (2009), about a girl who befriends a homeless man, and *The Midnight Gang* (2016), about the late-night adventure of five children in a hospital.
- Three of Walliams' books—*Ratburger* (2012), *Demon Dentist* (2013), and *Awful Auntie* (2014)—were named Children's Book of the Year by the National Book Awards.
- Walliams also wrote a number of picture books for younger children.

### Charity Work

- Over the years Walliams has raised millions of dollars for charity.
- In 2010 he and six others raised more than a million dollars after they biked from the northern tip of Scotland to the southwestern tip of England.
- The following year Walliams raised more money when he swam 140 miles (225 kilometers) of the River Thames.
- He also swam across the English Channel and the Strait of Gibraltar for charity.
  - In 2017 Walliams was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).



*British author David Walliams holds a copy of one of his books.*