

David Walliams is a famous British comedian, actor, screenwriter and author who was born on 20th August 1971 in London. His birth name was David Williams.

From 1989 to 1992, he studied at the University of Bristol and graduated with a Drama degree. He changed his name when he joined the actors group called 'Equity'. In 1998 he first appeared in 'Barking', a Channel Four sketch show. From 2003 to 2005 David Walliams co-wrote (with Matt Lucas) and starred in three series of Little Britain. This show was massively successful and made David Walliams rich and famous.

In 2006 David Walliams swam the English Channel for Sport Relief, raising over £1 million for charity. In 2011, Walliams improved on this achievement by swimming the length of the River Thames which was 140 miles in total. This swim raised another £2 million for the 'Sports Relief' charity organisation. The last time David Walliams did a sponsored swim he was a schoolboy, a side line child who preferred talking to taking part in any kind of physical activity. He admits that he joined the Navy cadet's in school only because he liked the uniform!

In early 2008 Walliams signed a contract to publish two children's books. His first book was called '*The Boy In The Dress*'. Mr Stink, his second book, was published in 2009. It was illustrated by Quentin Blake (who also illustrated many of Roald Dahl's books). His other children's books include: Billionaire Boy, Gangsta Granny, Ratburger, Demon Dentist and Awful Auntie. Many people have said that David's books remind them of the books of Roald Dahl as they are extremely imaginative. Many adults have said that the stories are very entertaining for children to read.

David Walliams got married to model Lara Stone in 2010 in an expensive wedding in London. They have a son called Alfred. Unfortunately they got divorced in 2015.

Since 2012 David has also proved popular in his role as a judge on TV talent show Britain's Got Talent, where he found inspiration for one of the characters in his bestselling novel RATBURGER.

His latest book 'The Midnight Gang' was released in 2016. It is a story of five young children and takes place in a wonderfully inventive and eccentric hospital setting. It promises to take fans from around the globe on an unmissable midnight adventure.



David Walliams has sold 2.2 Million books in the UK and has earned over £13 million as a very successful children's author. ©

WALT use evidence from the text to help us answer VIPER questions

1. Name three different things David Walliams is famous for.
2. What was David Walliam's birth name?
3. What was the first TV programme David was involved in?
4. What were the main reasons for David swimming the channel?
5. Look at the paragraph beginning ... In 2006. Can you find a word that is similar in meaning to '**got better**'
6. Can you explain why instead of swimming the channel again, David decided to swim the length of the river Thames?
7. Why do you think David got Quentin Blake to illustrate his books?
8. What charity work to you think David may do next. Can you give a reason for your choice?

