

Julia Donaldson

Julia grew up in London with her parents, grandmother, aunt, uncle, younger sister Mary and cat, Geoffrey.



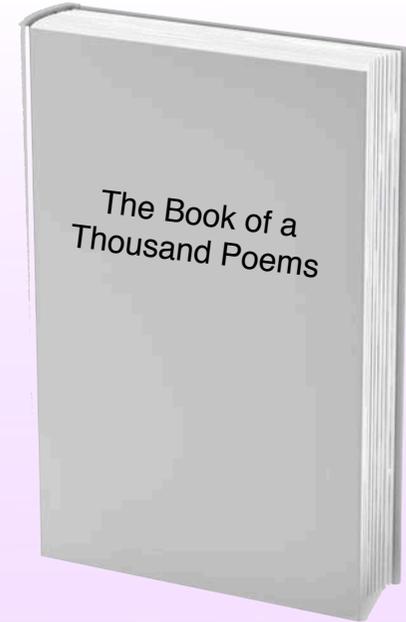
Julia Donaldson

Julia and her sister used to argue about who would marry Geoffrey the cat, because they thought that he was a prince in disguise!



Julia Donaldson

When she was five, Julia's father gave her a book called 'The Book of a Thousand Poems'. She learned the poems and started to make up her own.



Julia Donaldson

Julia met her husband Malcolm while she was studying Drama and French at Bristol University.



Julia Donaldson

Julia and Malcolm used to go busking together, writing songs about different countries.



Julia Donaldson

Julia used to write songs for children's television. One of these, 'A Squash and a Squeeze' was turned into a book in 1993 and Julia started writing other books after that.



Julia Donaldson

Julia was the 'Children's Laureate' between 2011 and 2013 to celebrate her outstanding achievements for children's writing.



Julia Donaldson

Julia loves performing at book festivals and in theatres, getting children in the audience to act out stories and sing songs.



Julia Donaldson

The artist Peter Monkman painted a portrait of Julia, which can be found in the National Portrait Gallery in London.



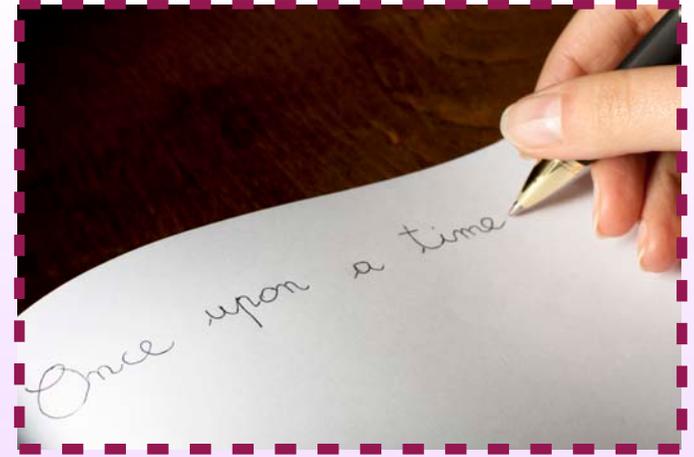
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Julia says that the hardest part of writing is turning her ideas into a story with a beginning, middle and an end.



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When Julia wrote 'The Gruffalo' she spent a year thinking of ideas and planning. Then, it only took her two weeks to write the story!



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One of Julia's favourite books is Watership Down by Richard Adams.



Julia Donaldson

When she is not writing,
Julia likes walking,
cycling, playing the
piano and singing.



Julia Donaldson

Julia is also interested in
wild flowers and fungi.



Julia Donaldson

Julia was awarded an MBE in 2011. This is awarded to people for 'a significant achievement or outstanding service to the community.'



Julia Donaldson

Julia loves acting in plays and thinks that they are a brilliant way for children to improve their reading.



Julia Donaldson

'The Gruffalo' was voted Great Britain's favourite bedtime story. It has also been translated into more than fifty languages!



Julia Donaldson

Julia encourages children to write books in which the character has a problem. She suggests that the writer should make the problem worse before it gets better!



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In 2012, Julia went on a tour to celebrate libraries around the UK, encouraging people to visit them at a time when many were being forced to close.



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In November 2013, Julia and her fans broke the world record for the longest chain of paper dolls, to celebrate the publication of her book, Paper Dolls.



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