

Thirteen Puffin titles in the BBC's Big Read Top 100

The BBC announced the nation's top 100 best-loved novels today. Thirty of the titles included on the list are children's books, thirteen of which are Puffin's, most significantly *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, *The Twits* and *Matilda* all by Roald Dahl, *Watership Down* by Richard Adams and *Goodnight Mister Tom* by Michelle Magorian.

Francesca Dow, Managing Director of Puffin Books says, 'It's wonderful to see such a range of old and new favourites on the list – and that so many of these are Puffin's. With newcomers such as *Artemis Fowl* and firm favourites such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* what better confirmation that Puffin, after more than 60 years, continues its great tradition of publishing the finest books that children really want to read.'

Eoin Colfer shot to fame and the top of the bestseller list from relative obscurity in 2000 when he cast a spell on the book world with the publication of his highly acclaimed novel *Artemis Fowl*. Described as 'Die Hard with fairies', publishing deals were struck worldwide culminating in a seven figure film deal with Miramax and Tribeca Productions. Teacher Eoin Colfer was on playground duty when he was told that his book had been sold to Hollywood. Three years later and Eoin, ex-teacher from Wexford in Ireland, is listed as one of the nation's favourite writers alongside such luminaries as Dickens, Hardy and Bronte.

Puffin has published **Roald Dahl's** hugely popular stories since the early 1970s. In 2003, nearly thirteen years after his death, he is still one of the most widely read and best-selling authors in the UK with approximately a million copies of his books sold every year.

Roald Dahl's widow, Felicity Dahl says, 'It is wonderful to see so many of Roald's books on the list. Over the past forty years generations of children have fallen in love with Roald's stories. He would have been thrilled that children today are getting the same joy from these books as their parents did when they were young.'

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