

20 FACTS you never knew about Puffins!



Stories that last a lifetime

Animal Tales

1 TRUMPET OF THE SWAN
Male swans are cobs, female swans are pens and baby swans are cygnets.

2 GOBBOLINO
A copy of *Gobbolino* was buried in the Puffin Time Capsule in 1978 and will not be dug up until 2078! Ursula wrote a message in this book and no one knows what it says . . .

3 TARKA THE OTTER
Otters are related to weasels, polecats and badgers.

4 WATERSHIP DOWN
Watership Down is set in the Berkshire and Hampshire countryside.

5 A DOG SO SMALL
'Chihuahua' is a Spanish word meaning *very, very small*.

War Stories

6 GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM
The beech tree's slim trunk gave Michelle Magorian the idea for her skinny evacuee's name – **William Beech**.

7 BACK HOME
One of Rusty's favourite memories is making and eating s'mores around the campfire down at the lake. S'mores are an American tradition, and no one is quite sure who invented them. The first known recipe appeared in 1927 in a Girl Scout handbook called *Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts*.

8 CARRIE'S WAR
Nina Bawden won seven writing awards during her career.

Magical Adventures

9 MRS FRISBY and the RATS of NIMH
Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH was inspired by research carried out on the mice and rat population over twenty years from the 1940s to the 1960s!



10 A WRINKLE IN TIME
In 2013, a crater discovered on the planet Mercury was named after Madeleine L'Engle.

11 THE NEVERENDING STORY
The first word in each chapter following the Prologue is in alphabetical order.

Unusual Friends

12 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
In 2010, forty-two of the original Garth Williams illustrations for *Charlotte's Web* were put up for sale at a New York auction, and fetched a combined total of £487,927.

13 STIG OF THE DUMP
Stig of the Dump is set where Clive grew up in Ash, Kent, and where he spent his childhood building dens. The chalk pit where Clive imagined that Stig lived is now part of a golf course.

14 THE CAY
The Cay is based on a true story. While researching another book, Theodore read about an incident that happened in 1942. The Germans had torpedoed a Dutch ship, slicing it in half. Those who survived the attack crawled into a lifeboat, looked back and saw an eleven-year-old Dutch boy.

15 STUART LITTLE
E. B. White received several letters from people also called Stuart Little – one such person claimed angrily that he was going to write a children's book about a rat named E. B. White!



ARRIETTY SAYS:
'Human beans are for Borrowers – like bread's for butter!'

16 THE BORROWERS
The Borrowers are all about 15 centimetres tall.

Real Life

17 ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY

After graduating from the University of Toledo, Mildred D. Taylor spent two years in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps, which she described as 'the happiest years' in her adult life.

18 ANNIE
The iconic character Annie first appeared as the eleven-year-old heroine of a comic strip called 'Little Orphan Annie'.

ANNIE SAYS:
'The sun'll come out tomorrow . . . Bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow there'll be sun.'

19 THE FAMILY FROM ONE END STREET

The Family from One End Street beat *The Hobbit* to win the Carnegie Medal in 1937.

20 SMITH
Smith vividly portrays life in London during the eighteenth century, when there was great poverty, pickpocketing was rife and the penal system was cruel and inhumane.



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