

ENID MARY BLYTON



Enid Mary Blyton (11 August 1897 – 28 November 1968) was born in East Dulwich, South London and spent her childhood in Beckenham, Kent. Enid Blyton was a bright, popular and sporty girl. As a child, Enid followed her father wherever he went, and it was through her father that she developed a love of nature and animals - an enthusiasm which stayed with her throughout her life. It was also her father who instilled in Enid her love of books, and she would often be seen sneaking into her father's library and borrowing a pile of books. While she was in school, Enid created a magazine called *Dab* with two friends, for which she wrote short stories.

In the early 1920s, she began to achieve success with her writing – her first book, *Child Whispers*, a slim volume of poetry, was published in 1922.

In 1924 Enid married Hugh Pollock, an editor at the publishing firm George Newnes, which had commissioned Enid to write a children's book about London Zoo – *The Zoo Book* (1924).

Enid's first full-length novel for children, *The Secret Island*, was published in 1938. Following the commercial success of her early novels, such as *Adventures of the Wishing-Chair* (1937) and *The Enchanted Wood* (1939), Blyton went on to build a literary empire. Throughout the 40 and 50s, Enid wrote books at a colossal pace: adventure stories, mysteries, magical stories, farming stories, stories for younger children, best-selling series ...her writing knew no bounds! This period saw the launch of most of her most well-known series including *The Famous Five*, *The Secret Seven* and *Malory Towers*.

Altogether, Enid Blyton wrote around 700 books and about 2,000 short stories as well as poems and countless magazine articles. In 1950 she set up her own limited company, Darrell Waters Ltd., to manage the fortune she was amassing. In addition to her writing, she invested a lot of energy and time in fundraising for charity. She encouraged thousands of her young fans to do the same, through special clubs she set up. They raised huge amounts in support of the PDSA pet charity and several charities devoted to helping children with disabilities.

Enid Blyton's stories remain timeless classics, adored by children throughout the world. Sales of her books are in excess of 500 million copies, and they have been translated into over 40 languages. Many of her stories have been adapted into highly successful stage shows, TV series and films, all round the world. In the UK this widely loved author continues to sell more than one book every minute.