



ABOUT NOEL STREATFEILD



Noel was born in Sussex in 1895 and was one of three sisters. After working in munitions factories and canteens for the armed forces when World War I broke out, Noel followed her dream of being on stage and went to RADA (The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) and became an actress.

She began writing children's books in 1932 and 'Ballet Shoes' was published in 1936. The story was written at a time when ballet was becoming very popular in England. Many great Russian ballet teachers who were exiled, settled in London where they set up their own ballet schools. Many ballet companies were founded, and Noel was a big fan. She wrote 'Ballet Shoes' and her sister Ruth Gervis helped her by doing the illustrations. When the book was published, it was so popular that one London bookshop had to have a special downstairs counter dedicated to selling 'Ballet Shoes'. There was a limit on the number of copies a person could buy, and even Noel herself could only buy two!

She quickly became one of the most popular authors of her day, rather like J.K Rowling is today. When she visited the famous Puffin Book Fair, there were queues right out of the building and all the way down the Mall. She was one of the first winners of the Carnegie Medal, which was given to exceptional children's book writers, and was awarded an OBE in 1938. Noel Streatfeild lived in London. She died in 1986. Before she died, she had written over 80 books!

ACTIVITY BOX

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