

# Malorie Blackman

## Who is Malorie Blackman?

Malorie Blackman is a popular author. She has written lots of books for young children, older children and young adults.



## Early Life

Malorie Blackman was born on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1962. She liked visiting the library when she was younger. She enjoyed reading lots of different books, like adventure and sci-fi stories.

Before she became a writer, Malorie had a job working with computers.



## Becoming a Writer

When she first started writing stories, Malorie sent them to people hoping that they would publish them. To begin with, nobody said yes to publishing her stories. Two years later, somebody replied saying that they would like to publish her writing. Her first text called 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' was made into a book in 1990.

When Malorie thought about the books that she read when she was younger, she noticed that none of the main characters were Black people. She wanted to do something to change this so she started writing books with Black characters.

## Did You Know...?

Before her first book was published, Malorie got 82 letters from people saying that they didn't want to make her writing into a book. She never gave up though and has now written over 70 books!



Malorie's books have won lots of awards and some have even been turned into television series! Some of her books include 'Pig Heart Boy', 'Hacker' and 'Cloud Busting'.



### Did You Know...?

Malorie likes playing video games in her spare time.



### Did You Know...?

Malorie believes that books are important because they can help us to see things from another person's point of view.

## Advice to Writers

If you want to be a writer, Malorie says that you should start by doing lots of reading. She says to even try reading things that you might not usually read. When you have read lots and lots, she says that the next step is to start writing lots and lots and to never give up!



# Questions

1. What year was Malorie born in? Tick one.

- 1961
- 1962
- 1963
- 1964

2. What was the name of Malorie's **first** book? Tick one.

- 'Pig Heart Boy'
- 'Hacker'
- 'Cloud Busting'
- 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories'

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Malorie liked visiting...	author.
Malorie's books have won...	the library.
Malorie is a popular...	lots of awards.

4. Number the events from 1- 4 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

- Malorie had a job working with computers.
- Malorie had her first book published.
- Malorie was born.
- Malorie decided to start writing books.

5. What does Malorie like doing in her spare time?

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6. Fill in the missing words.

If you want to be a \_\_\_\_\_ , Malorie says that you  
should start by doing lots of \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Explain how this text might encourage someone to become a writer.

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# Answers

1. What year was Malorie born in? Tick one.

- 1961  
 **1962**  
 1963  
 1964

2. What was the name of Malorie's **first** book? Tick one.

- 'Pig Heart Boy'  
 'Hacker'  
 'Cloud Busting'  
 **'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories'**

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Malorie liked visiting...	author.
Malorie's books have won...	the library.
Malorie is a popular...	lots of awards.

4. Number the events from 1- 4 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

- 2** Malorie had a job working with computers.  
 **4** Malorie had her first book published.  
 **1** Malorie was born.  
 **3** Malorie decided to start writing books.

5. What does Malorie like doing in her spare time?

**Malorie likes playing video games in her spare time.**

6. Fill in the missing words.

If you want to be a **writer**, Malorie says that you should start by doing lots of **reading**.

7. Explain how this text might encourage someone to become a writer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this text might encourage someone to be a writer because they will read Malorie Blackman's advice and be inspired to start reading and writing.**

# Malorie Blackman

## Who is Malorie Blackman?

Malorie Blackman is a popular author. She writes books for children of all ages and her books are known for tackling a range of issues. In her spare time, she enjoys playing video games and writing music.



## Early Life

Malorie Blackman was born on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1962. When she was younger, she liked visiting the library. She enjoyed reading lots of different books, including adventure stories, classic novels and sci-fi tales.

Malorie trained in computer science and worked as a computer programmer before deciding to try and become a published author.



## Becoming a Writer

When Malorie thought about the books that she read when she was younger, she noticed that none of them featured main characters who were Black people. When she was in her early 20s, Malorie read her first book with a Black main character. Malorie says that this book helped her to realise that she could be a published writer. As a result, Malorie started writing the stories that she wanted to read when she was a child.

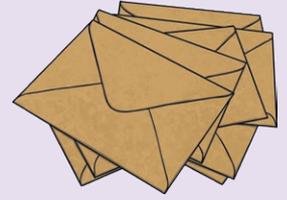
After two years and 82 rejection letters, somebody told Malorie that they would like to publish her book. The book was called 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' and was written for young adults.

Malorie has now written many books for all ages. Lots of her books have won awards and some have even been turned into television series! In 2013, Malorie became the Children's Laureate. This is an award that is given every two years to an inspirational children's writer or illustrator.



## Did You Know...?

Although people didn't want to publish her books to begin with, Malorie wasn't close to giving up. She decided that she would only rethink becoming an author after getting 1,000 rejection letters!



## An Important Job

Malorie believes that books are important for helping us to see things from another person's point of view. She says that we can begin to tackle issues like **racism** by representing lots of different people within stories.

If you want to be a writer, Malorie's advice is to start by reading lots of different books. She says to try books that you that you might not usually read. This is because, even if you don't enjoy them, you can use that to help you write stories that you will enjoy. When you have read lots and lots, she says that the next step is to start writing lots and lots and to never give up!



## Did You Know...?

In an interview in 2016, Malorie said, "Books should be mirrors as well as windows."



## Glossary

### racism:

When people are not given respect, rights, dignity or value because of their race.

# Questions

1. How many rejection letters did Malorie receive before her first book was published?

Tick one.

- 80  
 81  
 82  
 83

2. What happened to Malorie in 2013? Tick one.

- she was born  
 her first book was published  
 she said, "Books should be mirrors as well as windows."  
 she became the Children's Laureate

3. Number the events from 1- 4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Malorie started writing the stories that she wanted to read when she was a child.  
 Malorie read her first book that featured a Black main character.  
 Malorie became the Children's Laureate.  
 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' was published.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Lots of Malorie's books have...	written for young adults.
Some of Malorie's books have been...	a computer programmer.
Malorie worked as...	won awards.
Malorie's first book was...	turned into television series.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Malorie believes that books...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **showing**.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Fill in the missing words.

In 2016, Malorie said, " \_\_\_\_\_ should be  
doors as well as \_\_\_\_\_."

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Malorie Blackman using 25 words or fewer.

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8. Explain how you think that Malorie Blackman was feeling when her first book was published.

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# Answers

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Tick one.

- 80  
 81  
 **82**  
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2. What happened to Malorie in 2013? Tick one.

- she was born  
 her first book was published  
 she said, "Books should be mirrors as well as windows."  
 **she became the Children's Laureate**

3. Number the events from 1- 4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Malorie started writing the stories that she wanted to read when she was a child.  
**1** Malorie read her first book that featured a Black main character.  
**4** Malorie became the Children's Laureate.  
**3** 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' was published.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Lots of Malorie's books have...	written for young adults.
Some of Malorie's books have been...	a computer programmer.
Malorie worked as...	won awards.
Malorie's first book was...	turned into television series.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Malorie believes that books...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **showing**.  
**representing**

6. Fill in the missing words.

In 2016, Malorie said, "**Books** should be  
doors as well as **windows**."

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Malorie Blackman using 25 words or fewer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: She is an author who has written lots of books that have won awards. In 2013, she became the Children's Laureate.**
8. Explain how you think that Malorie Blackman was feeling when her first book was published.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Malorie was feeling proud and relieved because it had taken two years and 82 rejection letters before her first book was published.**

# Malorie Blackman

## Who is Malorie Blackman?

Malorie Blackman is a popular British author. She has written many books for children of all ages, including 'Pig Heart Boy', 'Hacker' and 'Cloud Busting'. Malorie's books are known for tackling a range of issues.

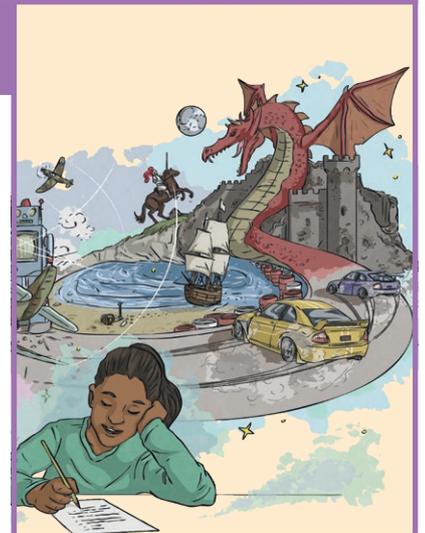
In her spare time, Malorie enjoys writing music and playing video games. She is still writing books that are enjoyed by children everywhere.



## Early Life

Malorie Blackman was born in London on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1962. When she was younger, she enjoyed spending time at the library. There, she enjoyed reading adventure stories, classic novels, sci-fi tales and anything else that she could get her hands on.

After leaving school, Malorie trained in computer science and later graduated from a school that specialised in film and television. She worked as a computer programmer before making the decision to try and become a published author.



## Becoming a Writer

When Malorie thought back to the books that she read as a child, she recognised that none of the main characters were Black people. It wasn't until she was in her early 20s that Malorie read her first book with a Black main character. Seeing herself reflected in the book, Malorie says that she realised that she might also be able to be a published writer.

As a result, Malorie started writing the stories that she would have enjoyed as a child. These were adventure stories, sci-fi tales and more – all of which featured a Black character.

After receiving several rejection letters from people that she had sent her initial stories to, Malorie decided that she wouldn't reconsider her choice to become an author until she had been given her 1,000<sup>th</sup> rejection letter. After two years and 82 rejection letters, Malorie's first book was published in 1990. It was called 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' and featured short sci-fi and horror stories for young adults.



Since her first book was published, Malorie has gone on to write many books for all ages. Many of these books have gone on to win awards and some have even been turned into television series! In 2013, Malorie became the Children's Laureate. This is something that is awarded every two years to an inspirational children's writer or illustrator.

## An Important Job

Malorie believes that books are really important for giving people the opportunity to see things from another person's point of view. She suggests that we can begin to tackle issues like **racism** and **discrimination** by representing a range of cultures, beliefs and **ethnicities** within stories. In an interview that took place in 2016, Malorie explained that, "Books should be mirrors as well as windows."



If you want to be a writer, Malorie's advice is to start by reading lots of different books and then reading a bit more! She says to try books that you might not usually read because, even if you don't enjoy them, you can learn something from them. When you have read lots and lots, she says that the next step is to start writing lots and lots and to never give up!



## Glossary

<b>ethnicities:</b>	Groups of people who often identify with each other through a common language, culture, religion or ancestry.
<b>discrimination:</b>	When someone is treated unfairly because of their religion, nationality or other factor when compared to others.
<b>racism:</b>	When people are not given respect, rights, dignity or value because of their race.

# Questions

1. Which of the following is the title of one of Malorie Blackman's books? Tick one.

- Cloud Bursting
- Not So Clever!: Incredible Short Stories
- Sheep Heart Boy
- Hacker

2. In what year was Malorie's first book published? Tick one.

- 1982
- 1990
- 2013
- 2016

3. What was Malorie's job before she became an author?

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4. Fill in the missing words.

After two \_\_\_\_\_ and 82 rejection letters,  
Malorie's first book was \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **After receiving several...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **first**.

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6. Summarise Malorie's advice to future writers using 15 words or fewer.

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7. Look at the section titled **An Important Job**.

Explain why you think that the author has called this section **An Important Job**.

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8. Argue that Malorie Blackman deserved to become the Children's Laureate.

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# Answer

1. Which of the following is the title of one of Malorie Blackman's books? Tick one.

- Cloud Bursting
- Not So Clever!: Incredible Short Stories
- Sheep Heart Boy
- Hacker**

2. In what year was Malorie's first book published? Tick one.

- 1982
- 1990**
- 2013
- 2016

3. What was Malorie's job before she became an author?

**Malorie worked as a computer programmer before becoming an author.**

4. Fill in the missing words.

After two **years** and 82 rejection letters,

Malorie's first book was **published**.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **After receiving several...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **first**.

**initial**

6. Summarise Malorie's advice to future writers using 15 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Her advice is to read different types of books, write lots and never give up.**

7. Look at the section titled **An Important Job**.

Explain why you think that the author has called this section **An Important Job**.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has called this section 'An Important Job' because it's talking about how books can help to tackle issues like racism and discrimination. The author is saying that people who write books are doing an important job.**

8. Argue that Malorie Blackman deserved to become the Children's Laureate.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Malorie Blackman deserved to become the Children's Laureate because it says that it is an award given to inspirational writers and she is both of those things. She worked hard to become a writer and never gave up which makes her inspirational.**