



## **Year 2 English Graduate Award**

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### **What is a biography?**

A biography is a piece of non-fiction writing all about a person and their life. It is written about them by somebody else. If the person writes it themselves, it is called an autobiography.

A biography includes lots of information about the person's life and their achievements.

### **Who are Janet and Allan Ahlburg?**

Janet and Allan Ahlburg are children's authors and illustrators who have written and illustrated over 100 children's books. Allan was born in Croydon in 1938 and Janet was born in Leicester in 1944. They met when they both went to Sunderland to train to be teachers. They were married in 1969. Allan went on to be a teacher but Janet decided to focus on graphic design. While he was teaching, Janet persuaded Allan to write stories that she could illustrate but their stories were rejected to begin with. Eventually, they were noticed and they started to publish books, their most popular being The Jolly Postman, which they got the idea from their daughter for, who loved envelopes.

Inspiration for many of their stories have come from their own childhoods and the time in which they grew up. Allan would write his stories in his garden shed just like Roald Dahl. Sadly, Janet died in 1994 but he has since made books with his daughter, Jessica, who, just like her mother, is also an illustrator.

Find more information about Allan and Julia here: [Janet and Allan Ahlberg Fact Cards \(teachingideas.co.uk\)](#) or [Allan Ahlberg, Janet Ahlberg Books | LoveReading4Kids](#)



### **What have they written? (include images)**

The Jolly Postman

Each, Peach, Pear Plum

Cops and Robbers

Peepo!

Funnybones

And many, many more!

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### **Challenge 1**

Make a list of all the characters from The Jolly Postman and the original stories they are from.

Find a book they have written, share it with an adult at home and talk about what you like about it.

Draw and label a picture of your favourite character from one of Janet & Allan's books.

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### **Challenge 2**

Using what you now know about the author, write a biography about them.

Use these headings: Names. Growing up. Books written. Special Facts. Favourite book (include a description and why we should read it)