

TEST YOUR CHILDREN'S LIT LITERACY QUOTIENT

CAN YOU SCORE A PERFECT 10?

BY KAREN ANTIKAJIAN

1. Which book did Ted Geisel wish he had never written and why?
2. How many children's books did E. B. White write and which one was the first?
3. Why did Beatrix Potter write *The Story of Peter Rabbit*?
4. What is the name of Chris van Allsburg's sequel to *Jumanji*?
5. What inspired the character of Winn-Dixie in Kate DiCamillo's book, *Because of Winn-Dixie*?
6. Who has just been named America's first children's poet laureate?
7. Which two children's authors have raced in *The Iditarod*?
8. Who was the inspiration for Alexander in the book, *Alexander and The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst?
9. What is the name of the cowdog who is in charge of ranch security (and Drover's boss)?
10. What is the full name of Tikki Tikki Tembo?

Answers to Quiz:

1. Ted Geisel (Dr. Seuss) wished he had never written *Green Eggs and Ham* because he had to eat it at every banquet given in his honor—time after time after time!
2. E. B. White wrote three children's books after he had retired from writing for *The New Yorker* magazine. *Stuart Little* was the first, followed by *Charlotte's Web*, and finally *The Trumpet of the Swan*.
3. In 1893, Beatrix Potter wrote the story as a letter for Noel, the five-year-old son of a friend, who had become very ill. Since she wasn't able to visit him, she sent the letter-story (illustrated with her charming drawings) to entertain him while he was bedridden. Later she wrote other stories for his seven younger siblings. Seven years after writing this letter, she borrowed it back, expanded it, added new color illustrations, and turned it into a book.
4. The sequel to *Jumanji* is called *Jumanji 2* and it picks up right where *Jumanji* left off. Now the Budwing brothers become the main characters.
5. Having just moved into an apartment where no dogs were allowed, Kate was suffering from what she called "a serious case of dog withdrawal." She says that Winn Dixie is a creature of longing, a composite of all the dogs she has known and loved.
6. Jack Prelutsky was just named America's first children's poet laureate on September 27, 2006. Three of his recent books are *If Not For the Cat*, a book of haiku poems about animals, *Read a Rhyme, Write a Rhyme*, in which he gives examples and then encourages the reader to finish the rhymes he has started, and his newest, *Behold the Brave Umbraphant*, that contains poems combining things like elephants and umbrellas; alarm clocks and armadillos; and toasters and toads (pop-up toasters).
7. You probably guessed, or knew, about Gary Paulsen, but Shelly Gill, a children's author who lives in Alaska, also completed the *Iditarod*. Her experience inspired her book, *Kiana's Iditarod*, which is about her lead dog, Kiana, and the grueling race. Kye, her daughter, was named after Shelly's lead dog, Kiana. (How many kids can claim that distinction?)
8. Judith Viorst's third son, Alexander, was the model and inspiration for this book and the sequels. She features her other sons, Anthony and Nick, in some of her other books (*I'll Fix Anthony, Sundry Morning*, and *My Mama Says There Aren't Any Zombies, Ghosts, Vampires, Creatures, Demons, Monsters, Friends, Gobins, or Things*).
9. Hank is the Head of Ranch Security and the hero (or so he thinks) of the *Hank, the Cowdog* series by John R. Erickson. Hank is the Maxwell Smart ("Get Smart") TV series with Don Adams) of the animal world.
10. Tikki's name is Tikki Tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari pari ruchi-pip peri pembo. His brother's name is Chang.