

## Biography of Author - Frank Cottrell Boyce

Frank Cottrell Boyce is a screenwriter whose films include *Welcome to Sarajevo*, *Hilary and Jackie* and *Millions*, which was also his first book. He has also written episodes of *Coronation Street* and *Brookside*, so you probably know his stories from your TV set. He also wrote the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony !

His first children's book *Millions* won the Carnegie medal, and was made into a film by Danny Boyle. Just like Damian in *Millions*, he is a Catholic who is fascinated by stories of the saints. He is not a millionaire and has no plans to rob a bank! However, during a short-lived career as an assistant at a puppet show, he earned a fortune entirely in small change. He believes this is how he first became interested in the problems created by user-unfriendly cash.

His second book, *Framed* was inspired by a news story he'd read in an old scrapbook. During the Second World War, a collection of valuable paintings from the National Gallery was hidden in a slate mine for safekeeping. He couldn't resist imagining how all of that great art might have affected the people who lived near the mine.

He has also created a fantastic trilogy, written with his trademark wit, warmth and sense of story, based upon Ian Fleming's novel, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, comprising *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *the Race Against Time and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Over the Moon*.

His novel *The Unforgotten Coat* won the 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. On winning the prize Frank Cottrell Boyce said: *"It would be amazing to win this award with any book I'd written but it is a special joy to win it with The Unforgotten Coat, which started life not as a published book at all, but as a gift. Walker gave away thousands of copies in Liverpool - on buses, at ferry terminals, through schools, prisons and hospitals - to help promote the mighty Reader Organisation. We even had the book launch on a train. The photographs in the book, were created by my friends and neighbours - Carl Hunter and Claire Heaney. The story was based on a real incident in a school in Bootle. So everything about it comes from very close to home - even though it's a story about Xanadu!"*

### Retrieval

1. What was Frank's second book called and what was it about ?
2. Name three of the places the book *Unforgotten Coat* was given away ?

### Words in context

3. Find and copy a phrase which means 'did not last long'.
4. Explain what you think 'user-unfriendly' means.

### Inference

5. How does Frank get inspiration for his stories. Use examples from the text to support your answer.