



Stephen King

Stephen King was born in Portland, Maine on September 21, 1947. His father was a merchant seaman who changed his surname from Pollock to King. Stephen's mother was a caregiver in a local facility for mentally challenged people. His father left the family when Stephen was just two years old, but what changed Stephen King's life was witnessing the death of his childhood friend. King later claimed he had no memory of the tragic accident, but many argue the event inspired the darkness which can be seen in his writing. King was raised Methodist after his mother.

As a child, King showed an interest in horror comics, and he independently published his first story "I Was a Teenage Grave Robber" in 1965. After he finished high school, King studied at the University of Maine and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English. His first daughter, Naomi Rachel, was born the same year. King worked as a janitor and gas pump attendant to pay for his studies. He released his first novel "Carrie" in 1974. The same year his mother died of cancer. In the late 1970s, King started "The Dark Tower", which proved to be a successful eight-book series over the next four decades. He also published under the pseudonyms Richard Bachman, John Swithen and Beryl Evans.

King married the novelist Tabitha Spruce in 1971. As of 2018, the couple has three children and four grandchildren. King is also known for his political activism, speaking out against violence in video games for children. He is also running for Governor of Maine in 2018. The books he wrote brought him fame, but he is also known for his work as a philanthropist, donating several million dollars per year to libraries and local groups.

King fought severe alcohol and drug addiction during the 1980's and has admitted to writing several books under the influence. Inducing being unable to remember writing parts of the book, "Cujo." In 1999, King was hit by a car while walking on the side of the road near his home in Maine and was seriously injured. He had five operations to fix his damaged leg. The man who hit him was found dead in his apartment a little over a year after the accident.

As of 2018 King has published 64 books and has sold over 350 million copies. Many of his stories have been turned into Hollywood movies, TV shows, and graphic novels. King has also received a great many awards for his work as a writer and as known by many as the "King of Horror." He is an inspiration to many writers and storytellers, and two of his children have even become successful writers.

Source: <https://www.biography.com/people/stephen-king-9365136>

Vocab Match

Name: _____

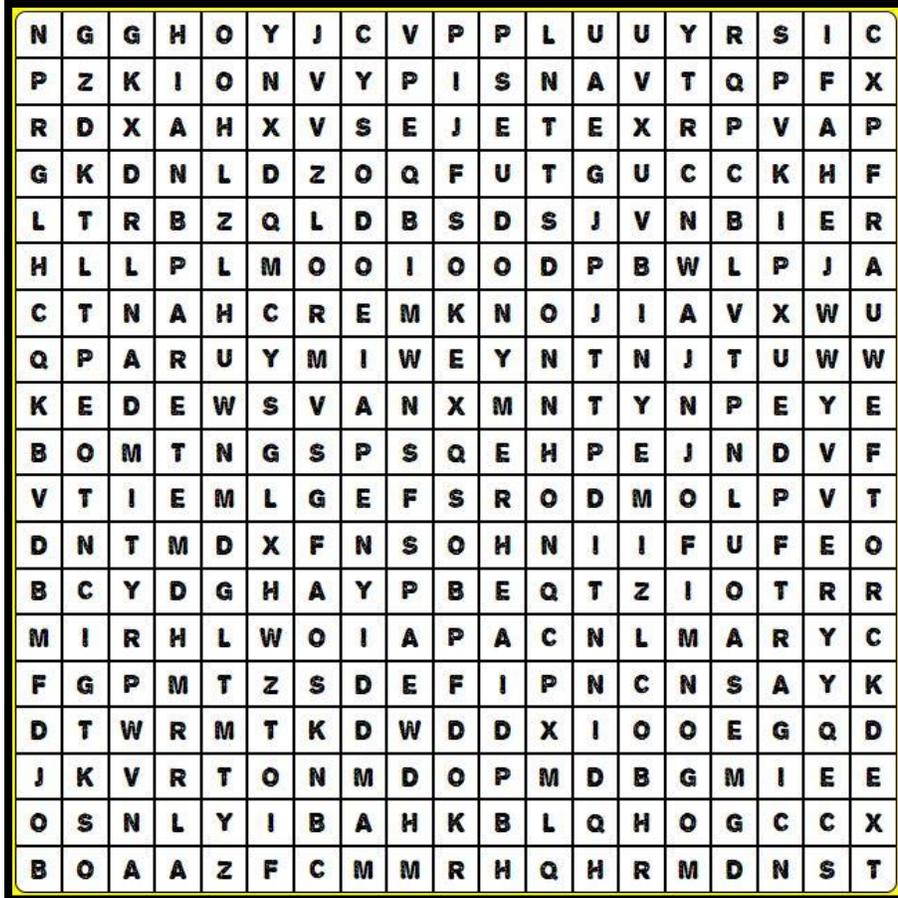
Word	Answer	Definition
1. merchant	1. ____	a. noun- someone working to help others
2. witness	2. ____	b. verb- to tell the truth
3. tragic	3. ____	c. verb- giving to a charity
4. independent	4. ____	d. adjective- very unpleasant
5. philanthropist	5. ____	e. adjective- alone, without help of others
6. donate	6. ____	f. noun- buyer or someone engaged in business
7. addiction	7. ____	g. noun- a person or thing that motivates others
8. admit	8. ____	h. noun- a person who saw something
9. pseudonym	9. ____	i. noun- need for and use of something unhealthy
10. inspiration	10. ____	j. noun- fake name used for writers

Discussion Topics

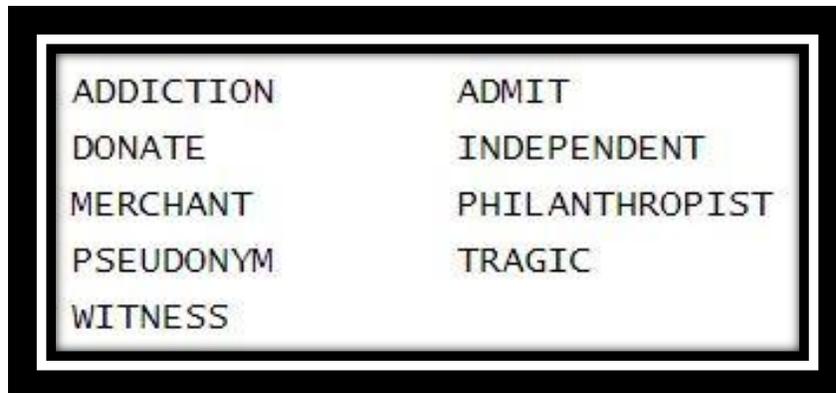
1. Who is your favorite author?
2. Do you like scary stories?
3. Have you ever donated to charity?
4. What was your favorite subject as a child?
5. Who is your inspiration?

Name: _____

Stephen King



Find these words!



Name: _____

Quiz

1) What year was Stephen King born?

a. 1974 b. 1981 c. 1931 d. 1947

2) According to the article, what changed Stephen King's life?

a. witnessing a death b. playing sports in school c. his mother's profession d. love of science

3) What was King interested in as a child?

a. cooking b. radio c. horror comics d. comedy films

4) What did King study at university?

a. Theater b. Philosophy c. History d. English

5) What job did King do as a student?

a. coach b. salesman c. janitor d. detective

6) What was the name of Stephen King's first novel?

a. The Shinning b. The Dark Tower c. Cujo d. Carrie

7) What is King known for other than his books?

a. his paintings b. his gardens c. his charity d. his clothing line

8) What did King fight during the 1980's?

a. addiction b. terrorism c. communism d. his wife

9) What happened to King in 1999?

a. he was hit by a car b. he became an actor c. he invented time travel d. he went to jail

10) How many books has King published as of 2018?

a. 84 b. 34 c. 64 d. 24

Key

Matching	Quiz
1. f	1. d
2. h	2. a
3. d	3. c
4. e	4. d
5. a	5. c
6. c	6. d
7. i	7. c
8. b	8. a
9. j	9. a
10. g	10. c

PROJECT: Students describe a charity that they would like to donate or volunteer for. They can also come up with their own charity if that is appealing.