

10 Fun Facts about Winnie the Pooh

#1

In the original Milne books, Winnie the Pooh was written as Winnie-the-Pooh. When Disney acquired the rights to animate the character, they dropped the hyphens, and it soon became the more popular expression.

#2

It was after Milne's death that his wife Daphne sold the rights to Disney. Walt's own daughters were said to be fans of the Milne stories, which led Disney to want to share the stories. Daphne then destroyed all of Milne's papers to preserve family privacy.

#3

Real Life magazine reported that two hundred Disney artists used 1.2 million pencils to sketch the 1968 animated movie Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day. This short film went on to win an Academy Award in 1969.

#4

Pooh was the first fictional character to have licensing rights sold overseas. Stephen Slesinger purchased the U.S and Canadian rights to the character in January 1930. Milne was paid the generous sum of \$1,000 in advance, and the promise of 66% of any income Slesinger made. 18 months later, Winnie the Pooh had become a \$50 million-a-year business (around \$720 million today).

Slesinger created the first Pooh doll, record, board game, puzzle, radio broadcast, animation, and film. After he died in the 1950s, Slesinger's widow, Shirley, took over the business and launched her own licensing campaigns. In 1961 and 1983, Stephen Slesinger, Inc. licensed certain Pooh rights to the Walt Disney Company.

#5

The fictional Poohsticks played in the book is now a real sport played worldwide with its own world championships.

#6

The skull of the real bear Winnie was displayed at the Being Human Festival in London for the first time in 2015.

#7

Most of the locations in the stories are based on real places you can visit in Ashdown Forest: the Hundred Acre Wood is the Five Hundred Acre Wood and Galleon's Leap is Gill's Lap. Roo's sandpit and Poohsticks Bridge are also real places to visit.

#8

Winnie the Pooh has his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, being one of only fifteen fictional characters to do so.

#9

The most successful translation of the books remains the Latin one from 1958. Upon release, the book became a huge hit, with one critic describing it as "the greatest book a dead language has ever known", and Time Magazine calling it "a Latinist's delight, the very book that dozens of Americans, possibly even 50, have been waiting for."

#10

E. H. Shepard's original drawings are worth an incredible amount at auction. The highest price was paid in 2014, when \$292 727 was paid for the image titled "For a long time they looked at the river beneath them...".