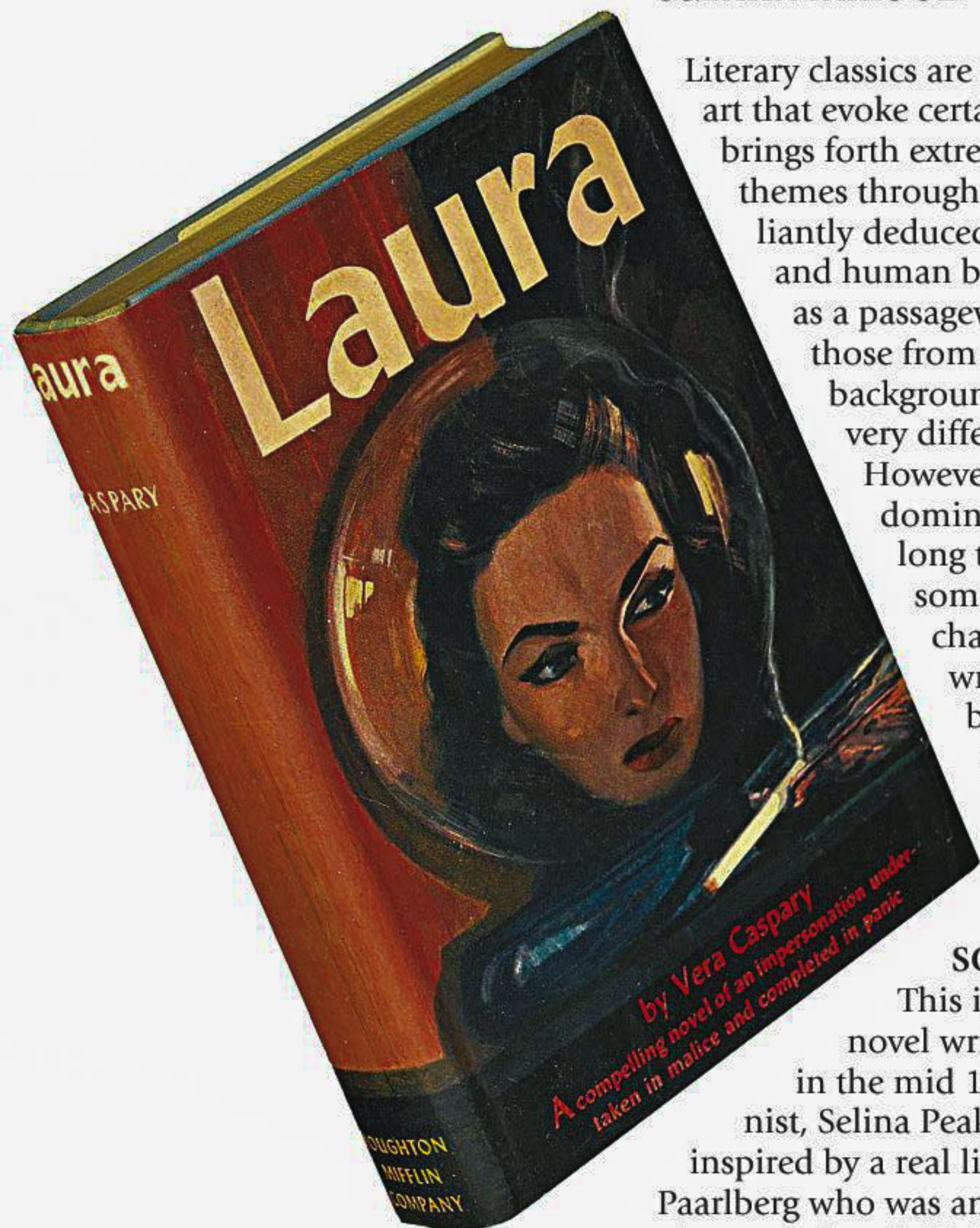


5 lesser known classic novels by women

SUBAITA FAIROOZ



Literary classics are described as works of art that evoke certain emotions and brings forth extremely important themes through the authors' brilliantly deduced philosophy on life and human behaviour. They serve as a passageway into the lives of those from different cultural backgrounds living in a time very different from ours.

However, classics have been dominated by men for a very long time and as a result some glaringly life-changing masterpieces written by women have been unable to garner a household name.

The following five novels are examples of some of the best works out there.

SO BIG

This is a Pulitzer winning novel written by Edna Ferber in the mid 1920s. The protagonist, Selina Peake De Jong, was inspired by a real life widow, Antje Paarlberg who was ambitious and a fierce pioneer in her field. The story follows the

life of Selina and her son in a harsh Dutch community in South Holland, Illinois, USA. It is a story about having the patience to see the beauty in life even when your circumstances dictate otherwise and the fact that wealth is very fleeting.

THE DOOR

This is a partial autobiography by the Hungarian author, Magda Szabó. The novel focuses on the unique relationship that Magda and her house cleaner Emerence develop. Their relationship has a lot of depth and many intricate details about friendship, loyalty, betrayal, and a resounding moral of the story is how sometimes our impulsivity blinds us from seeing the sentiments of those we love the most and how in the long run, we end up hurting them even when we did not mean to.

EVELINA

Much like the works of Jane Austen, Evelina, written by Fanny Burney in 1778, revolves around a charming but very young female lead. Evelina is a precursor to many of Austen's later works as it also dives into the domestic lives of young women and the society they were brought up in during the 18th century. If one cares to look deeply into the character's introduction to the real world it can be very easy to draw parallels to the dilemmas that teenage girls face nowadays as they are introduced to the

many facets of a robust community.

PASSING

Written by American author Nella Larsen in 1929, Passing is a powerful novel that centers on the theme of racial discrimination. The story follows two women – Irene Redfield and Clare Kendry – who are childhood friends reuniting after a long time. Clare Kendry's attempts to hide her true identity of being a mixed child from her white husband and the underlying connotations of racism is truly tragic but at the same time teaches us to accept ourselves and each other despite our societal labels.

LAURA

This is one of the most celebrated works of the author Vera Caspary written in 1942 and adapted into a film in 1944. The novel is about a young advertiser who is found dead in her apartment and the detective who is assigned to her case. It is also an insight into the author's life who was an advertiser herself and through the years struggled to find the right balance between her career and starting a family in a world that was dominated by men. For the readers this is a real rollercoaster ride and not one to be regretted.

Subaita loves cats and dogs and everything that hops, send her some of your favorite videos at subaita.fairooz@gmail.com

If people acted like Roald Dahl characters in real life

MATILDA

During the wonderful time of our lives called childhood, we often came across books, movies and other things that made us extremely happy and still continue to make us happy during adulthood. For me, one of the people whose books I still adore is, in words he himself came up with, the phizz-whizzing and whoopsy splunkorous Roald Dahl. You'd know what these meant if you spoke Gobblefunk, a language you can learn by reading his books. And if you have, can you imagine what it would be like if we tried to act like Roald Dahl characters in real life?

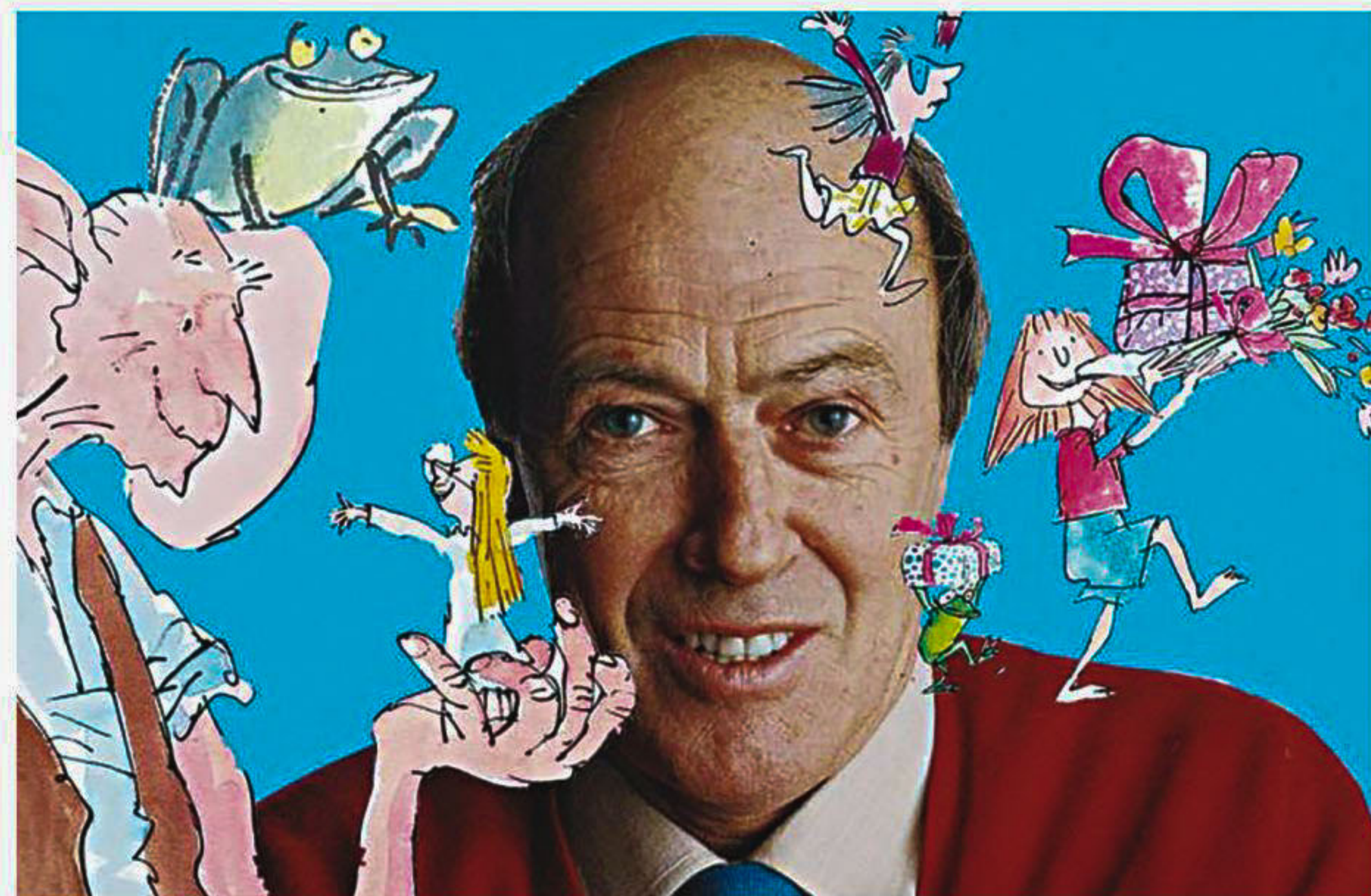
THE ANIMALS IN THE TWITS

Carpet glued to ceiling along with all the furniture? Something like that will only exist in fiction because no matter what TV

advertisements will try to convince you of, no amount of glue of any brand can hold that kind of weight. I can also tell you from personal experience that trying to glue things to the ceiling will only result in the object falling on your face as I, like many children during their childhood, witnessed the antics of that one kid who was brave enough, or rather dumb enough, to put the fearsome white liquid glue on their thumbs and stick them together during Arts and Crafts class. But another important thing for people like us living in hot tropical climates is that we have fans attached to our ceilings. Good luck trying to pull that out of its fixture.

MATILDA IN MATILDA

It is absolutely unrealistic to think that you will get a teacher like Miss Honey. It just won't happen. Another thing that won't



happen is that people won't get powers like Matilda. But that won't really stop people from trying to do what Matilda did. What's the closest thing one can do to replicate Matilda's actions, especially in the classroom? Bringing a tiny and surprisingly effective toy laser to school [definitely not recommended] and writing on the white board in red from your seat, "You will not give us homework today." Of course some can go the extra mile and use the teacher's first name without any title before it, surely increasing the punishment they will receive when caught.

JAMES FROM JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

The part about the cruel aunts I find totally believable. Everything else? Not so much. And I'm not even talking about the talking bugs and the giant flying magical

peach fruit. Forget James and his bug friends rolling over and falling into the sea. I'm talking about James accepting something from a stranger. In a world where crime is so publicised and we're so exposed to news showing terrible events all across the world, would you be able to behave like James and stop and accept something from a stranger even if you wanted to? As a pessimistic and paranoid person who sees the world through thick non-tinted glasses, I think not!

GEORGE IN GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

No, just, please no. That would be a serious health hazard and you could go to jail.

Matilda likes to pretend she is invisible and inconspicuous. Tell her you can read right through her at matilda.tilda1234gmail.com