Extra! Extra!

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

MICHAEL ENDE
THE NEVERENDING STORY
A PUFFIN BOOK
1929  Born 12 November in Bavaria, Germany

1945  Drafted into the German army, aged sixteen

1946  Returns to school after the war

1948  Attends drama school for two years

1954  Writes for cabaret shows and works as a book reviewer for German radio


1961  Jim Button and Luke the Engine Driver wins the German Prize for Children’s Literature
Michael Ende became one of the most famous German authors of the twentieth century, mostly due to the enormous success of his children’s books. *The Neverending Story* has been translated into many different languages and has sold millions of copies all over the world. Michael Ende’s father was one of Germany’s first Surrealist painters.

### INTERESTING FACTS

**1970**  
Moves to Italy

**1973**  
Momo, one of his best-known books for children, is published

**1979**  
His most famous book, *The Neverending Story*, is published in Germany

**1983**  
The Neverending Story is translated into English

**1984**  
The Neverending Story movie, directed by Wolfgang Petersen, is released

**1990**  
The Neverending Story II: The Next Chapter is released, followed by Escape from Fantasia in 1994

**1995**  
Dies 28 August near Stuttgart, Germany
WHERE DID THE STORY COME FROM?

Michael Ende’s story came from deep within his own imagination. His writing is a mixture of reality and fantasy, and the reader is often invited to take an interactive role in the story. He once said, ‘It is for this child in me, and in all of us, that I tell my stories . . . and they are for any child between eighty and eight years.’

The world of Fantastica mirrors the real world and he uses fantasy to bring to light some of the problems in our society today.
There, in a high worn leather wing chair sat a short, stout man in a rumpled black suit... His paunch was held in by a vest... He was bald except for outcroppings of white hair over his ears.

His long, graceful body with its pearly, pink-and-white scales hung tangled and twisted...

His long blue-black hair was gathered together and held back by leather thongs. A few simple white designs were painted on the olive-green skin of his cheeks and forehead.

Now she was much, much more beautiful. Her torn gown was whole again, the soft-coloured light played over the pure whiteness of the silk and of her long hair.
Lots of words have several different meanings – here are a few you’ll find in this Puffin book. Use a dictionary or look them up online to find other definitions.

Words!

WORDs
GLORIOUS

liana
woody vines that may climb as high as the tree canopy in a forest

fligree
delicate ornamental work of fine silver or gold

chasm
a deep gap in the ground

balustrade
a railing with supports

kobolds
mischievous spirits that haunt underground places

djinn
a spirit, capable of appearing in human or animal form

filigree
delicate ornamental work of fine silver or gold

bumptious
cheeky and brash

liana
woody vines that may climb as high as the tree canopy in a forest

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The German title for the book is Die unendliche Geschichte.

The world of Fantastica is called ‘Fantasia’ in the movie adaptations.

The first word in each chapter following the prologue is in alphabetical order. There are twenty-six chapters, and the first chapter begins with the word ‘All’, the second chapter begins with the word ‘Because’ and so on. By the end of the book the alphabet is complete.
Thinking caps on – let’s see how much you can remember! Answers are at the bottom of the opposite page. (No peeking!)

1. What lesson does Bastian miss in order to read his book?
   a) English
   b) Geography
   c) History
   d) Mathematics

2. What kind of dragon is Falkor?
   a) A luckdragon
   b) A magic dragon
   c) A sunlight dragon
   d) A fire dragon

CHILDLIKE EMPRESS SAYS: ‘Courage? Does it take courage to say my name?’
3. What kind of creatures are Engywook and Urgl?
   a) Elves
   b) Gnomes
   c) Trolls
   d) Goblins

4. What inscription does Bastian discover on the back of AURYN?
   a) Fly Away and Be Free
   b) Take What You Want
   c) B B B
   d) Do What You Wish

5. What is the name given to the Childlike Empress by Bastian?
   a) Moon Child
   b) Sun Child
   c) Fire Child Pilot
   d) Earth Child
1979 Fact Pack

What else was happening in the world when this Puffin book was published?

Margaret Thatcher became Britain’s first woman prime minister.

The Cabbage Patch Kids were the bestselling toy of the year.

Sebastian Coe sets a record time for running a mile, completing it in 3 minutes 48.95 seconds!

There is a thirty-minute snow storm over the Sahara Desert!

Write a word that goes with every letter in the alphabet from A to Z and then pick your favourite to write about!