

TIMELINE



EDUCATION

AT HER FIRST SCHOOL, MEM ATTENDED AS THE ONLY WHITE STUDENT IN HER CLASS. THE AUTHORITIES DICOVERED THIS AND TOLD HER PARENTS THAT THIS WAS ILLEGAL. MEM WAS THEN MOVED TO AN ALL WHITE SCHOOL. THEN, AT 18, SHE WENT TO A SCHOOL THAT HAD A DRAMA PROGRAM BUT ALSO REQUIRED A TEACHING CERTIFICATE TO GRADUATE.

CHILDHOOD

MEM FOX WAS BORN IN AUSTRALIA ON THE 5/3/1946. HER MISSIONARY PARENTS MOVED THEIR SMALL FAMILY OF THREE TO ZIMBABWE WHEN SHE WAS JUST 6 MONTHS OLD. SHE ATTENDED HER FIRST SCHOOL AS THE ONLY WHITE CHILD IN HER CLASS. THE AUTHORITIES DICOVERED THIS AND TOLD HER PARENTS THAT THIS WAS ILLEGAL. SHE WAS THEN MOVED TO AN ALL WHITE GIRLS SCHOOL. THE AGE OF 10, SHE WROTE HER VERY FIRST BOOK ABOUT SOIL EROSION. YEARS LATER, HER FATHER ENROLLED HER IN A SCHOOL THAT REQUIRED A TEACHING CERTIFICATE BUT ALSO HAD A DRAMA PROGRAM AS DRAMA WAS SOMETHING THAT MEM ENJOYED.



MEM FOX

BY SOPHIE PARSONS



FUN FACTS

MEM FOX'S WORK HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO 21 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

MEM DOESN'T LIKE HER REAL NAME MERRION.

MEM STARTED WRITING PICTURE BOOKS AFTER SHE HAD TO WRITE ONE AS AN ASSIGNMENT AT UNIVERSITY. THE BOOK SHE WROTE LATER TURNED INTO POSSUM MAGIC.

QUOTES

"WHEN I SAY TO A PARENT 'READ TO A CHILD' I DON'T WANT IT TO SOUND LIKE MEDICINE, I WANT IT TO SOUND LIKE CHOCOLATE."

"YOU'RE NOT LONELY WHEN YOU'RE TEACHING, YOU'RE NOT QUIET, YOU'RE LAUGHING MOST OF THE TIME, YOU'RE HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME INTERACTING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, IT'S THE BEST FUN IN THE WORLD."

"BOOKS DON'T HARM KIDS, THEY ARM THEM."

"WRITING A PICTURE BOOK IS LIKE WRITING WAR AND PEACE IN HAIKU."

WHAT MAKES MEM FOX A SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALIAN FIGURE?

MEM FOX IS A SIGNIFICANT FIGURE, AS SHE HAS WRITTEN MANY PICTURE BOOKS THAT ASSOCIATE WITH AUSTRALIA AND IT'S ANIMALS.



MEM FOX IS AN AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR AND RETIRED PROFESSOR WHO IS 74 YEARS OF AGE AND IS STILL INSPIRING MANY TO THIS DAY.

WHY DID I CHOOSE MEM FOX?

I SELECTED THIS FIGURE, AS I AM INTERESTED IN WRITING AND HOPE TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL AUTHOR LIKE MEM. HER WORKS ARE VERY FAMOUS IN AUSTRALIA.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1984- RECIPIENT OF THE NSW LITERACY AWARDS FOR POSSUM MAGIC
1990- DROMKEEN AWARD
1991- ADVANCE AUSTRALIAN AWARD
1993- MEDAL AT AUSTRALIAN DAY HONOURS
2001- CONVOCATION MEDAL
2001- SA GREAT AWARD
2002- WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2003- RECIPIENT OF PRIME MINISTERS CENTENARY AWARD
2003- CHILDRENS LANGUAGE AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CHALLENGES

AS A CHILD AT SCHOOL, MEM FOX WAS FORCED TO MOVE SCHOOLS TO AN ALL-WHITE KIDS SCHOOL AFTER AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED SHE WAS THE ONLY WHITE KID IN HER CLASS. THIS SHOWS THAT MEM HAD TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF INEQUALITY TOWARDS DIFFERENT RACES AT A YOUNG AGE.