Educational Disdain: George Orwell, born Eric Arthur Blair, detested his time at St. Cyprian’s School, which he later immortalized in his essay “Such, Such Were the Joys,” painting it as snobbish and oppressive, though his portrayal has been regarded as somewhat exaggerated​​.

Prankster Reputation: Orwell was expelled from a crammer school for a prank involving a dead rat. He had a mischievous streak, which included making fun of his teachers at Eton and stringing along salesmen in response to advertisements for amusement​​.

Diverse Occupations: Before his writing career took off, Orwell worked various jobs including a police officer in Burma, a high school teacher, a bookstore clerk, and a dishwasher in Paris - the latter for his research for “Down and Out in Paris and London”​​.

Arrest for Experience: In 1931, to understand the plight of the lower classes for his memoir, Orwell got himself arrested for being drunk. He wanted to experience prison life first-hand but was released after 48 hours​​.

Knuckle Tattoos: While serving as a policeman in Burma, Orwell tattooed small blue spots on his knuckles, a local belief being they could protect from bullets - a symbol of his divergence from the British establishment there​​.

Linguistic Skills: Orwell knew seven foreign languages to varying degrees, including French, which he became fluent in, as well as Latin, Greek, Spanish, and Burmese. Aldous Huxley, his teacher at school, introduced him to French​​.

Anti-Fascist Combatant: Orwell voluntarily fought in the Spanish Civil War on the Republican side. He was shot in the neck by a sniper, an experience he detailed in his book “Homage to Catalonia”​​.

Manuscript Rescued from Bombs: During WWII, Orwell’s London home was bombed, but he notably dug through the rubble to retrieve the manuscript of “Animal Farm,” which he then completed and published​​.

Agricultural Life and Inspiration: Orwell named one of his goats Muriel, mirroring the character from “Animal Farm,” suggesting a blend of his personal life with his literary creations​​.

Coined 'Cold War': Orwell is credited with coining the term "Cold War" in his 1945 essay "You and the Atom Bomb," predicting a prolonged state of tension between superpowers without direct conflict​​.