Roald Dahl Celebration

Resource created by Scottish Book Trust
Contents

The BFG
3 Create a quiz
3 Write a newspaper report
3 Create a menu for giants
3 Create a dictionary for the BFG

The Witches
4 Witch Warning
4 Witch Awareness website
4 Ghouls and Barghests

George’s Marvellous Medicine
5 Design an advert for George’s medicine
5 Design a medicine label
5 Write a letter to George
5 An Interview with George

6 Booktrailer tasks

Activities for all Roald Dahl books
7 ‘If you liked this book, try...’ bookmarks
7 Make a poster for the Dahl Celebration event
7 Dress up for charity

About this resource

This resource is designed to help you and your pupils enjoy the Roald Dahl Day celebration event, run by Scottish Book Trust, on 13th September 2012. The video of the event will be available soon after the event itself has finished, meaning you can make use of the event in the future as well!

The event will celebrate Dahl’s life and work, and we hope that through these resources you will find the event to be useful, not only with engaging children in reading for pleasure, but in delivering other elements of the curriculum as well.

You’ll have your own class with unique requirements, and so the activities aren’t too directive: feel free to modify as you see fit! A wide range of literacy experiences and outcomes are covered, and all links to the curriculum are documented next to each activity, which hopefully will save you some time!
CREATE A QUIZ

Ask pupils to create a quiz for other classes about giants. You could focus on the different types, special abilities, how they are ‘born’, what kind of humans they prefer to eat, countries visited, etc.

WRITE A NEWSPAPER REPORT

Ask your pupils to imagine that a number of children have disappeared overnight, and get them to write a newspaper report. You can include details of rumoured giant sightings, quotes from people claiming to have seen giants, diagrams/illustrations of what a giant might look like, and ways people could avoid their children being snatched.

CREATE A MENU FOR GIANTS

Ask your pupils to imagine they are preparing a giant’s ideal menu. Get them to think of different kinds of humans the giant might like to eat, and then get them to write up a menu, complete with descriptive paragraphs about each item on the menu.

CREATE A DICTIONARY FOR THE BFG

The BFG sometimes gets English words wrong (Roald Dahl called his character’s language ‘Gobblefunk’). Get your pupils to imagine that they are creating a dictionary for the BFG to refer to in his new life in Britain. They can find words that he uses, and try to work out what their English translation is.
The Witches

WITCH WARNING

Get your pupils to record a TV advert warning the population of Britain about witches. The following link tells you what you need to know about creating a TV news-style show:

WITCH AWARENESS WEBSITE

Alternatively, you could get your pupils to imagine that a new Witch Awareness society has been set up and they have been asked to design a website for the organisation. They will need to think about the following areas:

- Home page – what features they will want
- ‘About the organisation’ page
- News page
- Information pages (how to spot a witch, history of witches, famous witchophiles, etc.)
- Contact details page

GHOULS AND BARGHESTS

The narrator says in the first chapter that while witches are always women, ghouls and barghests are always men.

Ask your pupils to imagine what a ghoul or a barghest might look like. You can get them to make notes, then draw pictures with information underneath.
George’s Marvellous Medicine

**DESIGN AN ADVERT FOR GEORGE’S MEDICINE**

Ask your pupils to design a poster, radio advert or TV advert for George’s medicine. Ask them to think about their target audience, all the different things people might want the medicine for, all the selling points of the medicine, and so on.

**DESIGN A MEDICINE LABEL**

You could also get pupils to design a label for the medicine. They can think about slogans, layout, images, and which persuasive devices to use to sell the medicine, as well as the more informative elements like warning messages, ingredients, etc.

**WRITE A LETTER TO GEORGE**

Your pupils can write a letter to George, asking to be among the first to try out his new medicine. This can be a persuasive task – you can assume that George only has limited quantities – and the pupils can use persuasive language and devices to get George to send them some medicine.

It might be helpful for the pupils to write in character, so they have freedom to choose all manner of reasons for needing the medicine. You can get them to think about the following questions:

Do they need the medicine to help them do a special job? For instance, they might want to be a police officer, and be very tall so they can keep an eye on their town.

Perhaps they need the medicine because something else has caused them to shrink! They could think of another imaginary medicine that causes shrinkage, or say that they tried to make George’s medicine on their own with terrible results...

**AN INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE**

Your pupils can imagine that George has become famous, and get them to write an interview transcript with questions and George’s answers.
Booktrailer tasks

Booktrailers are a great way to get pupils thinking critically about what they read in a fun and engaging medium. You can find out more about what a booktrailer is and how to make one using Scottish Book Trust’s booktrailer masterclass videos: www.scottishbooktrust.com/cpd/toolkits/booktrailer-masterclass

Pupils are often keen to come up with their own ideas for trailers. If they need guidance, here are a few ideas to kick you off!

Make a trailer for The BFG by running through all the different giants in a criminal line up style. You could then feature the BFG at the end, encouraging people to read the book to find out how he differs from the rest of the giants.

Make a trailer for The Witches by picking out the most important bits of dialogue from the opening chapter. The pupils can accompany these with appropriate images.

Make a trailer for George’s Marvellous Medicine which only focuses on George’s gran, describing her horrible appearance and personality, and creating intrigue about what George will do to her!
Activities for all Roald Dahl books

‘IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...’ BOOKMARKS

This is a great idea from the National Literacy Trust! Pupils can create bookmarks to leave in Dahl books when they return them to the library. These bookmarks can have recommendations for other Dahl books to try. www.literacytrust.org.uk/practical_ideas/3160_practical_idea-if_you_liked_this_book_try_bookmarks

Pupils can use the ‘Books N’ Stuff’ section of the Roald Dahl website to search for other books: www.roalddahl.com/

MAKE A POSTER FOR THE DAHL CELEBRATION EVENT

You can ask your pupils to make a poster publicising the Dahl celebration event in school. They might want to include their favourite characters, quotes, scenes, etc.

You can still watch the event after it has happened – the recording will be available soon after the event through our Watch on Demand page: www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning/authors-live/on-demand

DRESS UP FOR CHARITY

You can follow up the event by registering to take part in the Dahlicious Dress up Day to help raise funds for Roald Dahl’s Marvellous Children’s Charity: www.roalddahlcharity.org/Default.asp?PageID=62. Pupils and teachers can dress up as their favourite Dahl characters!

Details of other ways you can get involved with the charity, which helps seriously ill children, can be found here: www.roalddahlcharity.org/Default.asp?PageID=27