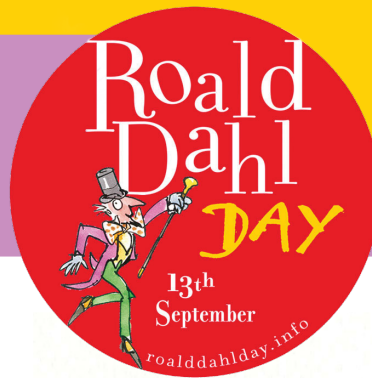




Visit [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com) for more activities to do on Roald Dahl Day.



# Roald Dahl Day

*A perfect opportunity to celebrate reading as well as a chance to look at the humour, imagination and language of this ever-popular writer*



**T**he Twits, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG, Matilda and The Witches\* – just a brief list of books that are synonymous with childhood. They are stories that take us out of the ordinary and introduce us to worlds full of misdemeanours, menace, mayhem and miracles!

On 13 September, you and your class can indulge in all of these stories, and more by celebrating Roald Dahl Day. His stories are fantastic to read aloud and are equally

wonderful to listen to. And, children love reading his books because he's always on their side, he's fun and surprising – so build in time for independent reading, too.

We've gathered together some activities that you can do with your class – on the day, or at any time – based on some of Roald Dahl's SCRUMDIDDLEYUMPTIOUS books! For even more activity ideas and worksheets, visit the Roald Dahl Day website – [www.roalddahl.com/home/teachers](http://www.roalddahl.com/home/teachers)

KitKat® foil, and his own hip bone that had been replaced during an operation (the surgeon said it was the biggest he had ever seen).

Ask the children: *If you could have your very own space to write, what would it be like? How would you decorate it? What special features would it have? Describe the items you would keep on your desk. How would they inspire you?*

### 3. Hello motto

Roald Dahl lived his life by this motto:

*My candle burns at both ends  
It will not last the night  
But ah my foes and oh my friends  
It gives a lovely light.*

## Starter activities

Talk about Roald Dahl as a person to give children the opportunity to think about where his ideas came from.

### 1. Be creative

Roald Dahl used to cut pictures of mouths, eyes and noses from newspapers and magazines to give him ideas for new characters. Collect lots of pictures and ask groups of children to pick ones that go together to make an interesting looking character. Each character must then be introduced to the class. This is a good group activity, involving lots of discussion

and decision-making – and it's great fun!

### 2. Writing centre

Roald Dahl wrote his books in a white hut on the edge of the orchard at Gipsy House where he lived. It was built from bricks by his friend Wally Saunders, and it had a yellow front door. It was never dusted, but it was very cosy with sheets of polystyrene lining the walls to keep the heat in.

On his desk, Roald kept all kinds of objects, including a carved grasshopper, paper knife that once belonged to his father, huge silver ball made up of

Invite the children to discuss what they think Roald Dahl's motto says about him. What did he mean by it? Ask the children to write a short motto (it doesn't have to rhyme) to sum up the way they live. They can decorate and illustrate it, to bring it to life. Each child can explain why they chose this motto and why it is right for the way they live. You could pin them all up to make a motto wall display.

## 4. The BFG

The Witching Hour

*When she reached the curtains, Sophie hesitated. She longed to duck underneath them and lean out of the window to see what the world looked like now that the witching hour was at hand.*

*She listened again. Everywhere it was deathly still.*

*The longing to look out became so strong she couldn't resist it. Quickly, she ducked under the curtains and leaned out of the window.*

*In the silvery moonlight, the village street she knew so well looked completely different.*

*The houses looked bent and crooked like houses in a fairytale.*

*Everything was pale and ghostly and milky-white.*

*Across the road, she could see Mrs Rance's shop, where you bought buttons*

*and wool and bits of elastic. It didn't look real. There was something dim and misty about that too.*

*Sophie allowed her eye to travel further and further down the street.*

*Suddenly she froze. There was something coming up the street on the opposite side.*

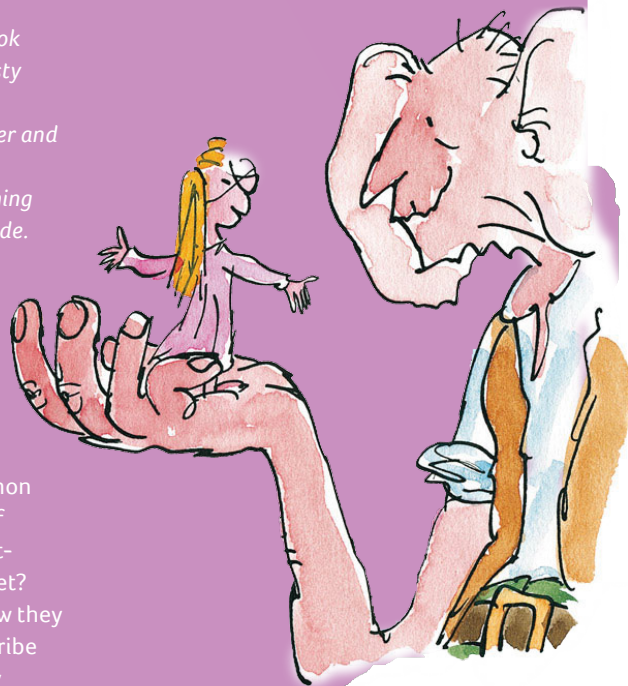
*It was something black...*

Extract from *The BFG* by Roald Dahl

Read the extract above to your class. Ask the children to imagine it is them looking out of that window.

What do they see coming towards them? Is it a scary monster? Or a demon dragon? A cackling witch or a flock of crows? Or maybe it's just an innocent-looking old lady shuffling up the street?

Invite the children to write down how they feel about what they see and to describe their feelings and reactions. Are they scared? Surprised? Maybe just a little bit excited?



## 5. Matilda

School reports

In the first chapter of Matilda, Roald Dahl gives some examples of things he'd like to write on end-of-term school reports if he were a teacher. For example:

*'Your son Wilfred has spent six years as a grub in this school and we are still waiting for him to emerge from the chrysalis.'*

Read this out to your class and then ask them what they think some of Roald Dahl's characters' such as Mr Twit

from *The Twits* and Danny from *Danny the Champion of the World's* end-of-term reports could have said.

(You could have a look at some of Roald Dahl's own school reports in *Boy: Tales of Childhood*,



## 6. Matilda and Charlie

Drama-rama

Ask the class to imagine if Matilda and Charlie Bucket (from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) were to meet. In groups or pairs, get the children to write a mini play imagining the type of conversation they might have. Ask the children to consider the following questions: What would they talk about? How would they get

on? Remind them to include vital details, such as why and where the meeting takes place, and how it all ends. Do the children think they'd make good friends? Do they think they'd like to meet up again? If you aren't or haven't read *Matilda* or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* – you can just swap the characters and focus on the ones you are reading about.

## ONLINE EXTRAS

Get creative this Roald Dahl Day by making your own Roly-Poly Birds to adorn the classroom and Crazy Character Cubes that will put an hilarious twist on favourite characters! Plus, don't forget your FREE fantastic Roald Dahl Day poster. Check out the Resource bank for more info.

