

Roald Dahl Day

Ideas for teachers

Roald Dahl Day is too good an opportunity to miss! It's the time to promote the pleasure of reading as well as to look at the humour, imagination and language of this ever-popular writer.

There's so much to do:

1. Enjoy the stories!

There really are books for all ages, starting with *The Enormous Crocodile* and *The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me* for early Key Stage 1, then the shorter stories such as *Fantastic Mr Fox* and *The Magic Finger* and then the longer novels like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Witches*. There are also books to dip into, such as *Dirty Beasts* and the more challenging collections of short stories that will take readers well into the secondary school. The novels are all great fun to read aloud and wondrous to listen to!

2. Look at Roald Dahl's Life, using his autobiographical books, *Boy* and *Going Solo* and the biographical look at his life, *D is for Dahl*. These books offer a great way into the reading requirements in the first term of Year 6 but are ideal to dip into with children of all ages:

- Read extracts from the chapters *The Bicycle and the Sweet-shop*, *The Great Mouse Plot* and *Mr Coombes* in *Boy* – perfect for assemblies and to introduce creative work. Look at Roald's memories of *Liquorice Bootlaces*, *Sherbert Suckers*, *Gobstoppers* and *Pear Drops* in the sweet shop chapter and ask children to describe their favourite sweet to someone who has never tasted it.
- Look at *D is for Dahl* – a really accessible book that can be dipped into rather like a reference book – and at the entries that prove Roald Dahl's love of sweet things never waned. Start with entries *Chocolate Facts*, *Creamy Kit Kat Pudding* and *Sm arties* and encourage children to search for more.
- Roald Dahl loved writing almost anything: diaries, lists, jokes, poems, stories, letters... Ask children to write a list of the 5 things they would most like to do now, and the 5 they would like to do in the future – good start to discussion work. Or they could write the letter they would like to send to Roald Dahl for his birthday if that were possible – or design a birthday card for him.
- Encourage children to check entries on Roald Dahl in other reference books in the library and to look at different ways of presenting information about a person's life.

3. Look at plays based on Roald Dahl's books:

These can be used in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – they're all great fun and offer good drama opportunities as well as ways into the books. There are play versions of: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The BFG*, *The Witches* and *The Twits*. There are also many scenes in the books that are great to act out as well as scenes to imagine – look at the Drama-Rama ideas sheet.

4. Be creative:



KEY STAGE 1:

The ideas sheets:

- Match Ups
- Wormy Spaghetti
- Missing Words
- Back to Front
- Who Am I?
- Fun Facts are for this age group.

And one more idea that children of all ages love:

Roald Dahl used to cut pictures of mouths, eyes and noses from newspapers and magazines to give him ideas for new characters. Collect loads 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!



KEY STAGE 2:

The ideas sheets:

- Sweet Inspiration
- Meet the Family
- Creative Centre
- The Witching Hour
- Goppelfunk
- Metamorphosis

Hello Motto should get the children started. But your ideas can be added – perhaps suggesting they draw their character in the style of Quentin Blake in *Meet the Family* or introduce nonsense verse and perhaps *Jabberwocky* when looking at language on the Gobblefunk sheet. If you have a copy of – encourage children to read entries: The Hut, Comfort, Dust, Writing Board, Yellow Paper, Yellow Pencils and Silver Ball when they're working on Creative Centre.

Finally – the stories matter the most! Children love Roald Dahl because he's always on their side and he's fun and surprising – so please build in time for independent reading.