

Roald Dahl and the power of words

A Roald Dahl Day lesson in partnership with Puffin

Date: Friday 13th September 2019

Available from: 8am

Duration: 35 minutes (approx.)

Location: bbc.co.uk/teach

Curriculum links

Key Stage 2/1st and 2nd Level – English

As part of the lesson, pupils will be encouraged to:

- Understand, enjoy and create stories
- Condense main ideas from text and identify key details that support these ideas
- Drawing conclusions such as understanding characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and then justifying these conclusions with evidence
- Discuss and record creative ideas inspired by a text
- Write narratives, create settings, characters and plot

Setup

How much space and equipment is needed?

The lesson can be viewed in a classroom with a large screen linked to a reliable broadband connection. Good audio equipment is not essential but will make the event more enjoyable.

As we'll be asking pupils to get involved in activities throughout the lesson, it would be beneficial if pupils had the accompanying activity sheets to hand to guide them through the activities, as well as stationery such as pens and pencils.

How many pupils can participate?

It's completely up to you how many pupils you have participating in the session. We want to get as many pupils as possible engaged in this lesson. Space might be a consideration if you have a very large group.

How to prepare for the lesson

This year's theme for Roald Dahl Day is **bravery**, and we're exploring the concept of being brave, standing up for what you believe in and using the power of words to change the world around you.

We'll be exploring the **power of words** and introducing 7 – 11 year olds to writing persuasively and creating characters and stories. At the beginning of the show, pupils will be asked to talk to their teachers and fellow pupils or write about a time that they have been brave. They'll be using that example later to create characters and stories.

Pupils can jot down their ideas in the space provided on their activity sheet.

This lesson will be split into three sections. These sections will be made obvious to you and introduced by a title that will appear on screen. You can teach these sections all together as one lesson or teach them separately at a later date.

Section 1: Creating characters

In the first section of the programme, we'll explore how Roald Dahl created his memorable characters and show why determining a character's motivation can help create compelling characters.

The pupils will be introduced to characterisation using one of Roald Dahl's stories, James and the Giant Peach. We explore an extract from the book which introduces seven different characters, and investigate the different ways that Roald Dahl conveys those characters.

The children will then be challenged to create their own character by building a character profile. These characters can be inspired by their bravery story from the previous task. They will be asked to get in the frame of mind of their character and complete the sentences that are on the character profile. The character profile grid can be found on Activity Sheet: Character and Story.

Section 2: Creating story

Once we have created the character's motivations, we move the story along. We'll investigate the role problems or obstacles play in story creation and how that conflict can come about.

We use the story of Matilda, and the conflict between the title character and Miss Trunchbull, as an example. We hear an extract from Matilda where Miss Trunchbull accuses Matilda of putting a newt in her drinking water, and explore how Roald Dahl portrayed the conflict in this scene.

The children will be challenged to use some of those techniques and expand on the characters that they created earlier, thinking of what conflict this character is likely to face.

Section 3: Writing persuasively

In this section of the lesson, we'll be exploring persuasive writing and how Roald Dahl won people over to his point of view.

To do this, the pupils will be introduced to persuasive writing through an extract from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Using a checklist on our activity sheet, the pupils will be tasked to pick out some of the persuasive techniques Dahl used.

After the reading, using the techniques they have just explored, pupils will be challenged to write persuasively on any topic they like, in the form of a slogan. This, again, could be inspired by the time they were brave.

Contact us

We need your ideas! At the beginning of the show, we'll be asking pupils all over the country to think about a time that they've been brave, using that episode from their lives to create their very own characters and stories. This could be anything from moving to a new house, starting in a new class or the first time they've been on a roller coaster.

Send your pupils' ideas and memories in to teach.bbc@bbc.co.uk with the subject Roald Dahl Day **on or before 4th September** and they could be featured in the show.

Get in touch with us throughout your viewing of the show via teach.bbc@bbc.co.uk or tweet us @BBC_Teach or use the hashtag #roalddahldayshow. If you're going to be watching, send in the name of your school and class and you could see your school name mentioned on the show.

*If you are sending in any images or videos that feature children, please ensure that you have parental permission, as they may be shown during the lesson and on our website. Please be aware that the BBC may ask you to demonstrate that you have received verifiable parental consent. **In the email, please confirm your official relationship to the child/children featured, e.g. teacher, Brownie group leader, sports coach etc. and confirm that you have sought prior parental consent.** Please also ensure the material is not sensitive or controversial. Read our Terms and Conditions for more information.*