

Roald Dahl

What is Roald Dahl's best book?

Roald Dahl would have been 100 on 13th September 2016. His books are famed for being wickedly funny, heart-warming, shocking and truly terrifying. Over the years, there has been great debate about which of his books was the best. Which book would you choose?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is about a desperately poor child who wins the chance of a lifetime – a visit to Willy Wonka's chocolate factory and a lifetime supply of Chocolate! Roald Dahl used his magical story writing skills to whisk his readers into the surreal world of Willy Wonka. Readers love to find out what happens to the other competition winners who are nasty, greedy and lazy.



Fantastic Mr Fox is about a brave and cunning hero, called Mr Fox. Readers will delight in Mr Fox's ingenious plot to take on Boggis, Bunce and Bean, a mean group of farmers who want to starve his family.



Roald Dahl's **The Witches** could give you nightmares. The really terrifying thing is that these witches live amongst us every day planning how to kill small children. Could the lady sitting at the bus stop be a witch? Readers will cheer on the hero of the story, a nameless seven-year-old boy, who gives these horrible women a taste of their own medicine.

James and the Giant Peach is the heart-warming story of an incredible friendship between James, a lonely orphan, and a group of oversized bugs. It will appeal to audiences because it is such a creative and imaginative idea.



Matilda is a story about a character who everyone will want to succeed. In this story, Matilda is a little girl with special powers. Unfortunately, her family do not appreciate her talents. Readers will all want Matilda to succeed – but this seems impossible!



The story of **The BFG** is about a lovable giant. Readers will fall in love with this kind character who gets his words muddled up. When he strikes up a friendship with Sophie, a small orphan, his life will change forever.

The Twits is a story about Mr and Mrs Twit, two of Roald Dahl's most hideous and memorable characters. Readers will love the mean jokes that they play on each other, they're hilarious.

Who would want a grandma like George's? She is cruel, bossy and **bitter**. **George's Marvellous Medicine** will have readers laughing out loud when they discover how George plans to seek his revenge.

Glossary

BFG – Big Friendly Giant

Bitter – feeling angry and resentful because something bad has happened to them



Questions

1. Choose two words to describe Roald Dahl's books. Tick **two**.

- funny
- boring
- dull
- scary

2. What does 'surreal' mean? Tick **one**.

- strange
- large
- quiet
- normal

3. Describe what Charlie won.

4. Why do readers love Mr and Mrs Twit?

5. Describe George's grandma.

6. In *The Witches*, the boy 'gives these horrible women a taste of their own medicine.' Can you explain what this phrase means?

7. Why is *The BFG* a suitable name for this story?

8. 'Over the years there has been great debate about which of his books was the best.'
Explain why you think this is.

Answers

1. Choose two words to describe Roald Dahl's books. Tick **two**.

- funny**
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2. What does 'surreal' mean? Tick **one**.

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3. Describe what Charlie won.

Charlie won the chance of a lifetime – a visit to Willy Wonka's chocolate factory and a lifetime supply of Chocolate!

4. Why do readers love Mr and Mrs Twit?

Readers love Mr and Mrs Twit because they play mean jokes on each other which the readers will find funny.

5. Describe George's grandma.

She is cruel, bossy and bitter.

6. In *The Witches*, the boy 'gives these horrible women a taste of their own medicine.' Can you explain what this phrase means?

The phrase 'a taste of their own medicine' means that the witches are experiencing the same unpleasantness that they have been inflicting on children. We know that the hide amongst unaware ordinary people and that they plot how to kill children. Therefore, the boy must be hiding amongst unaware witches plotting how to get rid of them all.

7. Why is *The BFG* a suitable name for this story?

The BFG is a suitable name for the story because it is about a giant, who is kind and friendly.

8. 'Over the years there has been great debate about which of his books was the best.'

Explain why you think this is.

The word debate is similar to the word argue. This phrase means that people have strong opinions about Roald Dahl books because they are so amazing. As a result, readers will argue which book they like best because they have such strong opinions on the subject.