

SCARY ROALD DAHL CHARACTERS

By Sarah Gudgeon

I. Read

What kind of bedtime stories did you like when you were younger? Did you like fairy tales or did you prefer adventure tales with monsters and dragons? All children love stories. They love stories about princes and princesses who fall in love. They love stories about magic fairies. But, they also love stories about baddies. Roald Dahl, a famous English author, created some wonderful, terrifying baddies.

In his book *The Big Friendly Giant*, there was indeed one nice kind giant but the other giants in Giant Country were truly terrible. With names like 'Bloodbottler' and 'Fleshlumpeater' they stole children from their beds every night and ATE them!

In Dahl's stories there was always a baddie who wanted to catch the children. In *The Witches*, there is The Grand High Witch who makes children everywhere tremble with fear. She commands all the witches on earth. And the witches are everywhere. Teachers, neighbours, even grandmas can be witches in disguise. Watch out! They have big witches meetings where they discuss the best ways to capture children and are super-organised!

Roald Dahl also wrote 'normal' stories about families and schools but the characters were not normal. In *The Twits*, Mr and Mrs Twit were horrible! They were horrible to all the children but also to other people and even animals. Imagine living on a street with The Twits as your neighbours! In the book, *Matilda*, the headmistress at Crunchem School is really mean and scary. She loves to punish all the children but Matilda is very difficult to scare...

These stories were written for children but adults love them as well. You are never too old to read Roald Dahl. Don't forget to check out his Revolting Rhymes too!

Glossary

baddies = i cattivi

Bloodbottler = imbottigliatore di sangue

Fleshlumpeater = mangiatore di pezzi di carne viva

tremble = tremare

in disguise = travestito

mean = cattiva

revolting = disgustoso

2. Answer these questions.

- a. Who is the BFG?
- b. Where do withes live?
- c. Who are Mr. & Mrs. Twit horrible to?
- d. Is the Headmistress at Crunchem School nice?
- e. Who should read Roald Dahl's books?

3. Create your own character for one of Roald Dahl's stories. Write a paragraph to describe why he/she/it is so terribly scary.

My character is called...

He/She/It is...

He/She/It is so terribly scary because...

4. Talk to a friend. Tell him/her about your character.

My character is really scary...

Teacher's Notes

2.

- a. The Big Friendly Giant who went to Sophie's window.
- b. Everywhere. They are in disguise.
- c. They are horrible to everyone; children, adults, animals.
- d. No, she isn't. She's mean.
- e. Children and adults.

3. Elicit some ideas for really scary children's book characters first. The students can work together or in small groups.