



Teacher Resource

Roald Dahl Changes

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What Roald Dahl books are being changed? Name one.
2. What changes are being made to Roald Dahl books?
3. What is a 'sensitivity reader'?
4. What other authors have had their books changed?
5. Do you think Roald Dahl books should be changed? Why or why not?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Roald Dahl Changes story hold a class discussion, using the following as discussion starters:

- What Roald Dahl Books do you know? Write a list of Roald Dahl books that you are familiar with.
- Have you read any Roald Dahl books? If so, which ones?
- What do you like about his books?
- Why are Roald Dahl's books being changed?
- What has changed in his books?
- What are people saying about the changes to Roald Dahl's books?



Activity: Personal Response

Students will write a personal response to the BTN Roald Dahl Changes story. Ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- It was interesting to learn...
- These are five words that I would use to describe Roald Dahl's writing ...
- Roald Dahl is an important author because...

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KEY LEARNING

Students will explore Roald Dahl's use of language.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 4

Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories exciting, moving and absorbing and hold readers' interest by using various techniques, for example character development and plot tension.

English – Year 4

Create literary texts by developing storylines, characters, and settings.

English – Year 5

Create literary texts that experiment with structures, ideas and stylistic features of selected authors.

English – Year 6

Create literary texts that adapt or combine aspects of texts students have experienced in innovative ways.

English – Year 6

Create literary texts that adapt or combine aspects of texts students have experienced in innovative ways.

Analyse how text structures and language features work together to meet the purpose of a text.

English – Year 6

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience.

Activity: Persuasive Text

Students will explore the issues raised in the BTN Roald Dahl Changes story and then develop a persuasive text for or against the following statement: *'Roald Dahl books should be rewritten to remove language deemed offensive by the publisher'*. Students need to weigh up the pros and cons of the issue then write a short persuasive argument using the following as a guide.

Some issues to consider are:

- What does the term censorship mean?
- Why have the changes to Roald Dahl books been criticised?
- What is a sensitivity reader? What is their purpose?

Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers, or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Use this *Read Write Think* [persuasion map](#) to plan your exposition text.

Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue?
Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

Reflection

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- What did you learn from this activity?

Activity: Class poll

Hold a poll in your class. Students will conduct their own opinion poll on the issue of whether Roald Dahl books should be changed. Working in groups, students will need to decide who their sample group will be and how many people will be polled. What method will they use to conduct the poll? (Face to face interviews or written responses). Ask students to graph the opinion poll results and then reflect on the results.



Activity: Language

Gobblefunk is the language Roald Dahl invented to use in many of his books. Dahl thought that the made-up words were a way of making his books more interesting. Ask students to find out the meanings to the following Gobblefunk words then put them into a sentence. Refer to Newsround's [dictionary](#) of Gobblefunk words. Students can also be encouraged to create their own Gobblefunk words.

Word or phrase	Meaning	Example in a sentence
<i>Hopscotchy</i>		
<i>Crodsquinkled</i>		
<i>Squibbling</i>		
<i>Whizzpopping</i>		
<i>Trogglehumper</i>		
<i>Quogwinkle</i>		
<i>Phizz-whizzing</i>		

Activity: Fictionary game

In small groups of 3 or 4, students will play the game "fictionary". One student will choose an unusual word from a dictionary and secretly write the definition on a piece of paper. The other students in the group will each write a made up definition on a piece of paper, which is written in a way that sounds convincing. Place each of the pieces of paper in a hat.

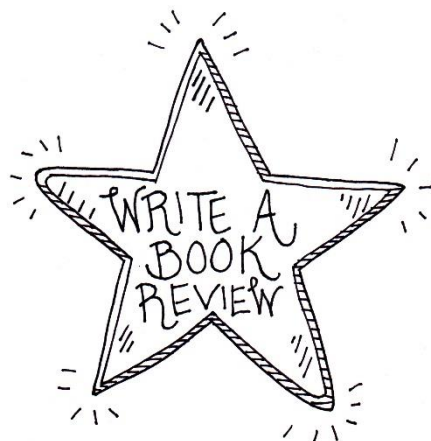
The definitions, including the real definition, are then read aloud to the group in random order. Each student will record which definition they believe is correct. The real definition will then be revealed!



Activity: Book review

Students will choose a book written by Roald Dahl and then write a book review.

- What are the themes in the book?
- What did you like or dislike about the book? Why?
- Would you recommend the book to other kids your age? Why or why not?
- Include an illustration with your review. It could be a sketch of the front cover or one of the characters from the story.
- Tip: Think about the audience you are trying to reach. Use effective vocabulary and accurate and persuasive language.
- Class activity! Hold your own class book club. Everyone will read the same Roald Dahl book, either individually or as a class and then discuss the story.



Some of Roald Dahl's books have been made into movies. Students may choose to review a movie that's based on one of his novels.

Activity: Exquisite Corpse

Exquisite corpse is the most famous of all the surrealist games and was invented by Andre Breton and the surrealists in the 1920s. The surrealists were a group of artists and poets who loved breaking the rules of art and finding new ways to look at the world.

Exquisite corpse is a method by which a collection of words or images is collectively assembled. Each collaborator adds to a composition in sequence, either by following a rule, or by being allowed to see only the end of what the previous person contributed.

Exquisite (adjective)

Early 15c., "carefully selected," from Latin *exquisitus* "choice," literally "carefully sought out"

Corpse (noun)

Late 13century "body", from Old French *cors* "body; person; corpse; life."

FOLDING STORY BASED ON THE EXQUISITE CORPSE

Exquisite corpse is a method by which a collection of words is collectively assembled. Each collaborator adds to a composition in sequence, either by following a rule, or by being allowed to see only the end of what the previous person contributed.

The instructions provide outline details for writing a narrative, but it could also be used for writing a poem. If writing a narrative, students will write a beginning, middle (with a complication) and an ending (with a resolution). Students will work in groups of three to create their folding story, using the following steps.

How to:

1. Fold an A4 piece of paper into three equal parts.
2. The first person begins writing the beginning of the story on the first section of the paper. The **last word** they are going to write should be written onto the next section.
3. The second person uses the word that is written as the start of the second section (middle) of the story – it should include a complication. The **last word** they are going to write should be written onto the next section.
4. The third person uses the word that is written as the start of the third section (ending) of the story – it should include a resolution for the story.
5. NOW – SHARE!

Reflect

Reflect on the activity by responding to the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about this investigation?
- What did you find surprising?

Activity: Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Write your own ending!

Rewrite the ending of a Roald Dahl Book. Explain why you chose to end it the way you did. Read aloud to the class.

Role model

Choose a character from a Roald Dahl book that you find inspiring. What are their personality traits? Why are they an inspiration to you?

Children's book

Retell one of Roald Dahl's books in the form of a children's picture book.

Letter writing

How do you feel about the changes to Roald Dahl's books? Write a letter to Roald Dahl's publisher explaining your views. Ask any questions you have about the book.

Useful Websites

- [Roald Dahl Book Changes](#) – BTN Newsbreak
- [New editions of Roald Dahl books, including Matilda and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, criticised by writers](#) – ABC News
- [Roald Dahl: Why are they rewriting Roald Dahl?](#) – Newsround
- [Roald Dahl Day: Seven fantastic facts about the author](#) – Newsround
- [Roald Dahl dictionary: 10 of our favourite Gobblefunk words](#) – Newsround
- [Roald Dahl Day: Seven fantastic facts about the author](#) – Newsround
- [Roald Dahl Centenary](#) – BTN