

Roald Dahl's Heroes and Villains

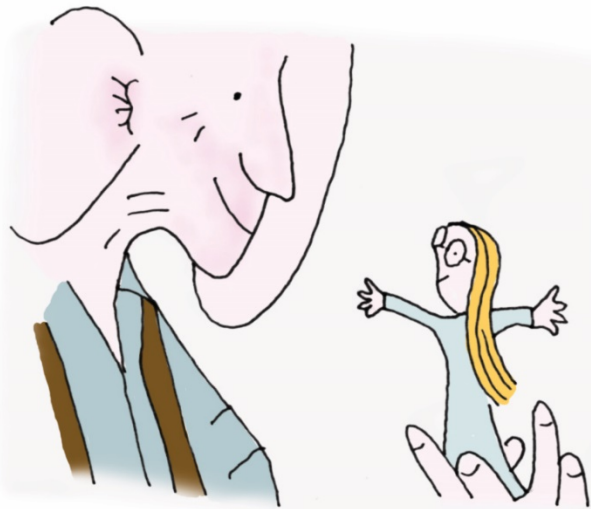
During his writing career, Roald Dahl created some truly **memorable** characters including many **courageous** heroes and wicked villains. Read on to find out more about some of Dahl's most loved (and hated) characters.

Heroes of Dahl's Creation

Charlie Bucket from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'

Charlie Bucket lives with his mother, father and four grandparents in a **shabby** house near to the world-famous Wonka Chocolate Factory. His family are very poor and struggling to survive.

Charlie just loves chocolate... especially Wonka chocolate! His favourite bar is the Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight and it is inside one of these bars that he finds the **precious** Golden Ticket. It is then that his magical adventures begin. Yet throughout these adventures, little Charlie stays **level-headed** and as Grandpa George says Charlie is 'a fine little fellow'.



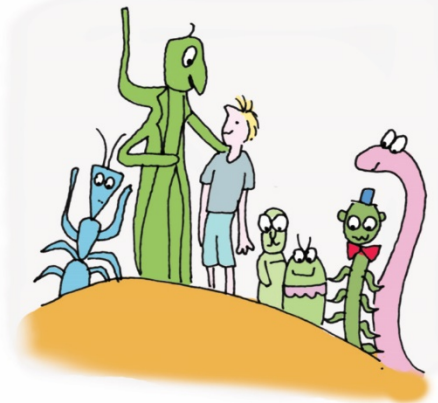
Sophie from 'The BFG'

One night, Sophie is kidnapped from her bedroom at the **orphanage** by The Big Friendly Giant. Sophie may be only a tiny little girl, but she is tough and brave. She finds herself travelling to Giant Country clutched in the palm of The BFG's hand.

Once she realises The BFG is not going to eat her, they quickly become friends and it's not long before she is eating snozzcumbers and drinking frobscottle. It is Sophie who thinks of a smart idea to stop all the other **foul** Giants who would rather eat human 'beans' than snozzcumbers.

James Trotter from 'James and the Giant Peach'

James Trotter is a lonely boy living with his two aunts, Spiker and Sponge. At the beginning of the story, poor James is orphaned when his parents are killed by a mad rhinoceros. His aunts are extremely cruel because they make James do all the cleaning and never let him away from the house to meet other children. James's luck starts to change when he meets a strange old man who hands him a special gift that will change his life. He is then introduced to some of the most unusual friends a young boy could ever have.



Mr and Mrs Twit from 'The Twits'

Mr Twit is one half of a horrible couple called The Twits. He and his wife spend most of their time teasing each other with nasty tricks and terrifying children and animals, such as the poor Muggle-Wump Monkeys.

Mr Twit has a horrible, hairy, **bristly** beard that he never washes. Because of this, his beard is full of all sorts of disgusting scraps from Mr Twit's meals including stilton cheese, cornflakes and tinned sardines.

His wife, Mrs Twit, is just as evil and twice as ugly. She was once quite beautiful, but her beauty was **transformed** by thinking so many horrible thoughts over the years.



Farmers Boggis, Bunce and Bean from 'Fantastic Mr. Fox'

Boggis is one of three farmers that appear in Fantastic Mr Fox. Along with Bunce and Bean, he makes it his business to do all he can to prevent Mr Fox from taking any more of his **livestock**. From shooting at him to starving the Fox family out of their home, they'll do anything to stop sly Mr Fox.

Together, they think of many different tricks and plans to defeat the **cunning** Mr Fox, but they continue to be **infuriated** by Mr Fox's night-time raids on their farms. Unfortunately for them, Mr Fox is a clever fellow who quickly finds a solution to the problem the farmers put him in.

Miss Trunchbull from 'Matilda'

One of Dahl's most evil characters, Miss Agatha Trunchbull, is the '**formidable** female' headmistress of Crunchem Hall Primary School, attended by Matilda and her friends. A former Olympic hammer-thrower with a **hatred** of children, Dahl describes her as 'a fierce **tyrannical** monster who frightened the life out of pupils and teachers alike'. She's certainly not the sort of woman you'd expect to find as headmistress of a school as she treats her students so badly. She throws boys out of windows and girls across the playground by their pigtails. However with a little help from Matilda, though, Miss Trunchbull faces punishment for her evil deeds.



Roald Dahl's Heroes and Villains – Follow-Up Work

What are the names of the three Roald Dahl 'heroes' featured in the text?

Describe the character of Charlie Bucket based on the text.

Which character is described as having a hairy, bristly beard?

How did Mrs Twit become so ugly?

What is the name of the school where Miss Trunchbull is headmistress?

Why do you think it is so difficult for Charlie to live so near to Wonka's Chocolate Factory?

How are the characters of Sophie and James Trotter similar?

What evidence in the text shows that Mr Twit does not have good hygiene?

Why do you think Miss Trunchbull makes such a poor headmistress?

How are headings and sub-headings used within the text?

Which word does the writer use to describe the frustration the farmers feel towards Fantastic Mr Fox?

How does the writer make you feel about Roald Dahl's books?

How does Roald Dahl represent the role of adults and children in these stories? Why do you think he does this?

Write the meaning of each of these words.

memorable _____

courageous _____

shabby _____

precious _____

level-headed _____

orphanage _____

foul _____

bristly _____

transformed _____

livestock _____

infuriated _____

cunning _____

formidable _____

tyrannical _____

Using the clues, can you think of a synonym for the words listed from the text?

When you have completed this, try to find that word hidden in the wordsearch below. Words are either horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

WORDS

SYNONYMS

beautiful

_ r _ tty

little

s _ a _ l

sly

c _ nn _ ng

courageous

_ r _ ve

horrible

t _ rr _ b _ e

special

un _ s _ a _

t	a	m	x	i	j	o	d	c
e	f	s	l	e	v	e	w	u
r	h	b	m	n	c	p	b	n
r	z	n	o	a	l	p	u	n
i	m	i	s	t	l	e	r	i
b	r	a	v	e	s	l	e	n
l	u	f	a	y	k	b	a	g
e	q	o	p	r	e	t	t	y
v	u	n	u	s	u	a	l	g

Now write each word from the 'SYNONYMS' column in to a sentence of your own.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Adjectives

Adjectives are describing words. *Large, friendly* and *red* are all examples of adjectives.

Tick the adjectives (describing words) in this list:

grey _____

music _____

kind _____

tiny _____

dance _____

Using the text, find eight or more examples of adjectives from the text.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Think of three examples of adjectives to describe Charlie Bucket which are not used within the text.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Think of three examples of adjectives to describe Mr Twit which are not used within the text.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Roald Dahl's Heroes and Villains – Oral Teacher Questions

What are the names of the three Roald Dahl 'heroes' featured in the text? **Charlie Bucket, Sophie and James Trotter.**

Describe the character of Charlie Bucket based on the text. **He is described as being poor and struggling to survive. He is sensible and level-headed.**

Which character is described as having a hairy, bristly beard? **Mr Twit.**

How did Mrs Twit become so ugly? **Her beauty was transformed by thinking so many horrible thoughts over the years.**

What is the name of the school where Miss Trunchbull is headmistress? **Crunchem Hall Primary School.**

Why do you think it is so difficult for Charlie to live so near to Wonka's Chocolate Factory? **It is difficult because he is extremely poor and can't afford to buy the chocolate that he loves so much.**

How are the characters of Sophie and James Trotter similar? **Both children are orphaned (without their parents). Both children's lives change when something 'special' happens to both of them.**

What evidence in the text shows that Mr Twit does not have good hygiene? **He never washes and because of this, his beard is full of all sorts of disgusting scraps from his meals including stilton cheese, cornflakes and tinned sardines.**

Why do you think Miss Trunchbull makes such a poor headmistress? **She hates children and treats them badly. She throws children through windows and across the playground by their pigtails.**

How are headings and sub-headings used within the text? **Sub-headings are used to write about each of the characters separately. The headings are used to separate the heroes and villains.**

Which word does the writer use to describe the frustration the farmers feel towards Fantastic Mr Fox? **The writer uses the word 'infuriated' to describe their frustration.**

How does the writer make you feel about Roald Dahl's books? **The writer describes the characters in detail and makes them sound interesting without giving too much of the story away. The writer makes people want to read the stories that these characters are in.**

How does Roald Dahl represent the role of adults and children in these stories? Why do you think he does this? **In these examples, the children are portrayed as being the heroes of his stories whereas the adults tend to be portrayed as villains. He does this because his books are aimed at children and making them the heroes would appeal to children.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

memorable – something worth remembering; notable

courageous – being brave; having courage

shabby – showing signs of wear or neglect

precious – something which is dear to someone; very valuable or costly

level-headed – having common sense; sensible

orphanage – a place for the care of orphans (children without family)

foul – filthy and disgusting; something which is horrible

bristly – rough; covered with bristles

transformed – to have changed in appearance

livestock – animals kept on a farm, such as chickens, cows and sheep

infuriated – to make someone very angry or impatient

cunning – sly and crafty

formidable – causing fear or dread; intimidating, forceful and powerful

tyrannical – acting in a cruel, harsh or severe way

Using the clues, can you think of a synonym for the words listed from the text?

When you have completed this, try to find that word hidden in the wordsearch below. Words are either horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

WORDS

SYNONYMS

beautiful

pretty

little

small

sly

cunning

courageous

brave

horrible

terrible

special

unusual

t	a	m	x	i	j	o	d	c
e	f	s	l	e	v	e	w	u
r	h	b	m	n	c	p	b	n
r	z	n	o	a	l	p	u	n
i	m	i	s	t	l	e	r	i
b	r	a	v	e	s	l	e	n
l	u	f	a	y	k	b	a	g
e	q	o	p	r	e	t	t	y
v	u	n	u	s	u	a	l	g

Now write each word from the 'SYNONYMS' column in to a sentence of your own.

1. Individual pupil responses to include the six words above.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Adjectives

Adjectives are describing words. *Large, friendly* and *red* are all examples of adjectives.

Tick the adjectives (describing words) in this list:

grey ☒

music ☐

kind ☒

tiny ☒

dance ☐

Using the text, find eight or more examples of adjectives from the text.

Examples could include any of the following words: shabby, poor, hairy, nasty, horrible, bristly, precious, tiny, mad, old, fierce, tyrannical, tough, terrible, special, little, brave, strange, special, unusual, disgusting, evil, ugly, beautiful, sly, cunning, clever.

Think of three examples of adjectives to describe Charlie Bucket which are not used within the text.

1. Words such as deprived, young, small, friendly, sensible, hungry could be used.

2.

3.

Think of three examples of adjectives to describe Mr Twit which are not used within the text.

1. Words such as awful, smelly, revolting, dreadful, appalling could be used.

2.

3.