

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

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 will love to find out what happens to the other competition winners who are nasty, greedy and lazy.



Fantastic Mr Fox

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



The Witches

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 tries to stop these wicked women.

James and the Giant Peach

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

Matilda is a much loved 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. **Audiences** will want Matilda to be happy – but this seems impossible!



The BFG

The BFG (Big Friendly Giant) is a lovable 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

Mr and Mrs Twit are two of Roald Dahl's most hideous and memorable characters. The mean jokes that they play on each other are hilarious.

George's Marvellous Medicine

Who would want a grandma like George's? She is cruel, bossy and mean. Roald Dahl's imaginative punishment for this woman will have readers laughing out loud.

Glossary

debate – an argument/discussion

succeed – to be successful

surreal – unusual and weird

audiences – people reading the book

Questions

1. In which month was Roald Dahl born? Tick **one**.

- ☐ April ☐ July ☐ September ☐ October

2. What does 'heart-warming' mean? Tick **one**.

- ☐ A fire/radiator which warms someone up.
☐ A painful feeling in your chest
☐ Something that makes you feel happy
☐ Something that makes you feel sad

3. What two things did Charlie win? Tick **two**.

- ☐ A new car
☐ A visit to Willy Wonka's chocolate factory
☐ A lifetime supply of chocolate
☐ A trip to a theme park in Florida

4. Which two words best describe George's grandma? Tick **two**.

- ☐ kind ☐ gentle ☐ mean ☐ cruel

5. Fill in the missing words.

The BFG (_____) is a lovable character who gets his _____ muddled up. When he strikes up a friendship with Sophie, a small _____, his life with change forever.

6. What do Mr and Mrs Twit do to each other?

7. Why do readers think Mr Fox is a hero?

8. Explain why 'The Witches' might give people nightmares.

Answers

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The BFG (**Big Friendly Giant**) is a lovable character who gets his **words** muddled up. When he strikes up a friendship with Sophie, a small **orphan**, his life with change forever.

6. What do Mr and Mrs Twit do to each other?

Mr and Mrs Twit play mean jokes on each other.

7. Why do readers think Mr Fox is a hero?

Readers think Mr Fox is a brave and cunning hero because he plots to take on three farmers called Boggis, Bunce and Bean. Mr Fox is protecting his family from these mean men who want to starve them.

8. Explain why 'The Witches' might give people nightmares.

Children's own responses using ideas from the text, such as: The Witches could give you nightmares because they live amongst us every day, planning how to kill small children. Could the lady sitting at the bus stop be a witch?