



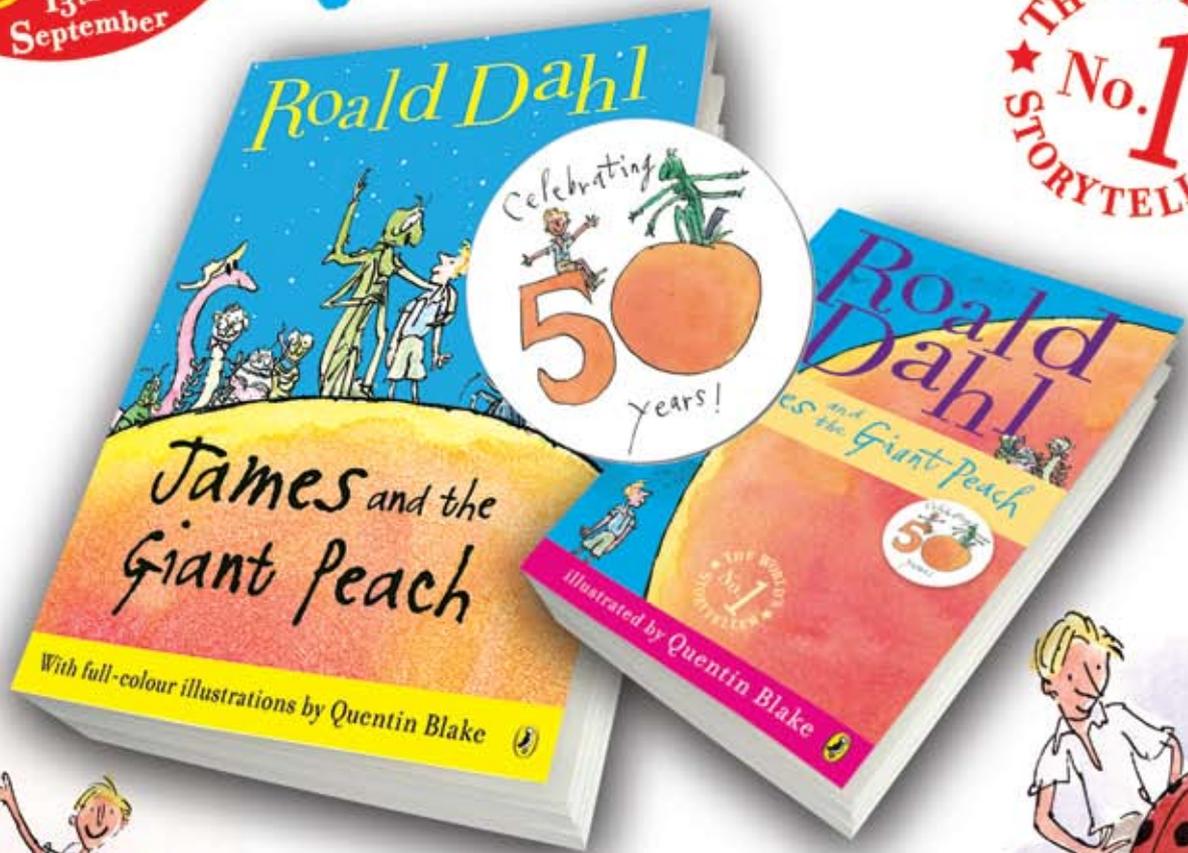
# Teach the



Roald  
Dahl  
DAY  
13th  
September

# Peach!

THE WORLD'S  
★ No.1 ★  
STORYTELLER



Illustrations © Quentin Blake.

# The James <sup>and</sup> the Giant Peach Teachers' Resource Pack



# 13 September

is Roald Dahl's birthday and the day when children, schools, libraries and bookshops all over the world celebrate his work on

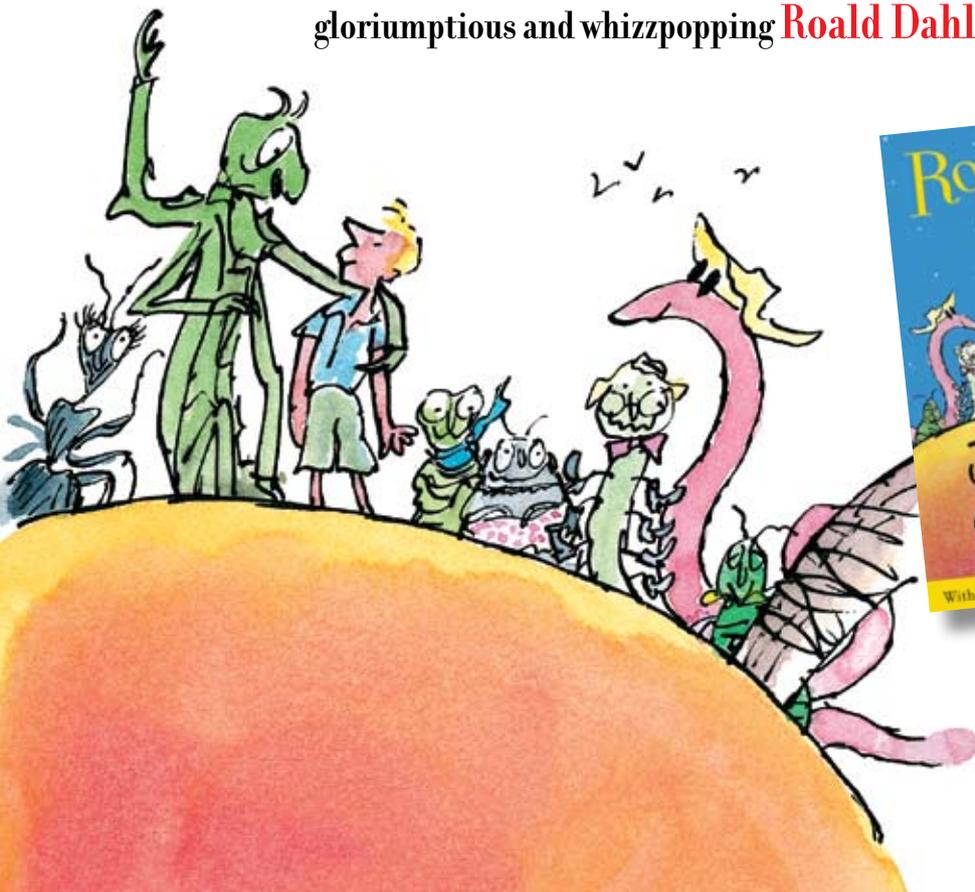


# Roald Dahl Day!

This year, we're celebrating 50 years of

*James and the Giant Peach*

In this pack you will find loads of ideas and resources inspired by the book for pupils in Year 3/ Primary 3 and above. We hope you will be able to use this pack to put on a splendiferous, gloriumptious and whizzopping **Roald Dahl Day** this September!





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Illustrations © Quentin Blake.

*Only Got 10 Minutes...*

Hold a *James and the Giant Peach* Mini Quiz (p14). If you'd like to run a bigger quiz on Roald Dahl's life and work, you'll find everything you need at [www.roalddahlday.info/resources.aspx](http://www.roalddahlday.info/resources.aspx)

There are questions and answers at three levels of difficulty, plus templates and promotional materials





# James and his Gang

## Teamwork through friendship

The crew of insects who join James on board the huge flying fruit have nothing in common except the special powers that the magical little green things have given them, which means they have all grown to human scale and can communicate with each other and with James. The group must work together and pool their talents to overcome the dangers on their journey such as the sharks and the Cloud-Men.

The creatures' experiences offer a perfect way for children to explore the ways in which teamwork and recognising the range of qualities in a team can help groups to reach goals that individuals can't reach alone. **Try these activities:**

### Activity: CHARACTER CARDS

#### 1. MAKE AND COMPLETE THE CARDS (see template)

Make a Character Card for each creature which can be printed on A4 paper and laminated, or printed on A4 card. You could divide the children into groups with each group working on one character (the Silkworm and the Glow-worm can be covered by a single group) or give each child a Character Card to complete separately.

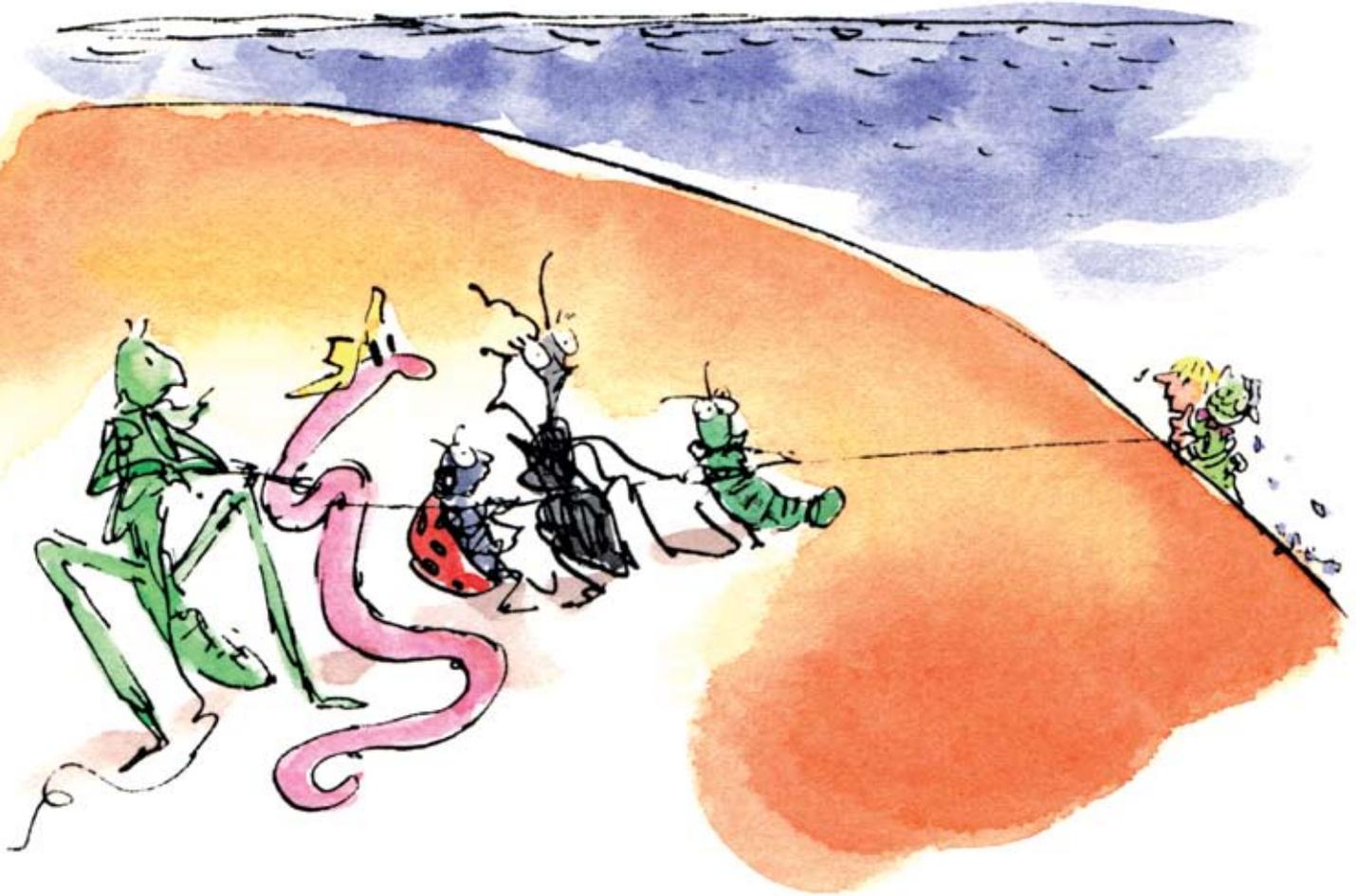
- The Centipede
- Miss Spider
- The Old-Green-Grasshopper
- The Ladybird
- The Earthworm
- The Silkworm
- The Glow-worm
- And don't forget James



Each **CHARACTER CARD** should be completed to include:

- The creature's name
- Illustration
- Special talents, qualities or skills (use captions and arrows to point to features such as the Old-Green-Grasshopper's music-making wings or Miss Spider's spinning).
- Particular needs (for example, the Centipede needs a long time or lots of help to get dressed).





- Negative characteristics or weaknesses: the Centipede tends to be self-absorbed and complain a lot.
- What the creature could do to improve: the Centipede could look on the bright side.
- Favourite foods (*details are given for some creatures in the story, but use reference books and the internet to find more details*).

## 2. TALK ABOUT TEAMWORK

When all the character cards have been completed:

- Gather the children into character groups if they have been working individually and ask them to pool their ideas about “their” creature.
- Ask all the groups to discuss and list what their creature did successfully to help the group in the giant peach complete their journey.

## 3. PRESENT YOUR FINDINGS: HOLD AN ASSEMBLY ON TEAMWORK

- For a class presentation or year group or whole-school assembly. Depending on time and resources, enhance the performance with costumes and/or masks, giant peaches and so on.
- A group of children representing the creatures on the giant peach introduce themselves (or other children can introduce them using James’ poem from Chapter 37 beginning “*My friends, this is the Centipede*”) explain in turn why “their” creature is special or describe in turn the contribution “their” creature has made to a successful voyage.
- Discuss how working together could enhance the activities of the class/school.





# Character Card

**CHARACTER NAME**

Draw a picture of the character **HERE**



**Favourite foods** (*you may need to look at reference books or on the internet*)



**Special talents, qualities and skills**



**Particular needs**



**Areas that need improvement**



**Ways to improve**





# Creature Comforts

The insect friends who James meets in the giant peach fill the place of his family and become his trusted companions on a terrifying journey. Yet when he first met them he knew little about them.

**1. CONSIDER each creature in turn and use reference books and the internet to find out about their habits and life cycle.**

- |                 |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| • The Centipede | • Miss Spider   | • The Old-Green-Grasshopper |
| • The Ladybird  | • The Earthworm | • The Silkworm              |
| • The Glow-worm |                 |                             |

**2. Then discuss:**

- What do the creatures say about themselves?
- How much of it is true?
- What do the other creatures say about them?
- How much of it is true?
- What do the general public think and say about each of the creatures?
- Is it what they are really like?
- What is each creature useful for that the general public might not realise?



**3. Make a list of poems and stories that you find about each creature and decide whether they give a true picture.**

**4. Create a display for each creature.**





# Rainbow Painting Dance

## Dance and Drama

The Centipede gets covered in rainbow paint and finds it very uncomfortable.  
But you could decide that on humans, rainbow paint is soft and light.

### ASK THE CHILDREN TO:

- Pretend you are dipping one body part at a time into the appropriate colour (the teacher could call out the colours or announce time to change colour).
- Explore the use of various gestures – dabbing, flicking, swirling, sweeping and so on – to paint a picture that surrounds each child.

# It's Raining Cloud-Men

## Weather Reports

- Keep a class weather diary for two weeks and write a weather report using the Cloud-Men to explain how every day's weather is made.
- Create other weather people who have different qualities to the Cloud-Men (the Sun Women?).
- Illustrate the weather makers and the weather they make.





# Peachy ideas for creative writing inspired by

# James <sup>and</sup> the Giant Peach

## 1. WRITE A REVOLTING RECIPE

*Aunt Sponge Cake and Aunt Spiker Smoothie*

- As preparation, ask children to find and bring in some examples of regular recipes for a plain sponge cake (sometimes called a Victoria sponge) and a fruit and yogurt smoothie.
- Read some of *Roald Dahl's Completely Revolting Recipes*.
- Discuss what it is important to include in a recipe. Usually the ingredients are listed followed by a description of the method.
- Discuss how Roald Dahl's recipes are different from everyday recipes
- Using the regular recipes as a model - but including Roald Dahl's approach of including unusual ingredients - ask the children to create recipes for James' aunts to serve to make even more money from the visitors who come to see the giant peach.
- Make recipe cards and menu cards illustrated with drawings or collages of the revolting cakes and smoothies.



## 2. WRITE A POSTCARD FROM NEW YORK

*Lesson plan plus additional activities: an outline to adapt for Year 3/P3 and above, adapted from an original idea by Claire Field, Education Manager at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre.*

As preparation, ask the children to bring in a POSTCARD they have been sent (this is a good activity to run just after the summer holidays).

### Starter:

When he was at boarding school, Roald Dahl wrote a postcard or a letter home to his mother every week. Share Roald Dahl's postcards with the children (see images on page 8) and point out that his postcards were not always about exciting events but were a way of conveying important information such as arrangements for travelling home or a request for an item to be sent to him. Discuss with the children the difference in methods of communication in the 1920s – Roald Dahl was using postcards in the same way that we would use the telephone, email, a text message or social media such as Facebook.





Look at the postcards that the children have brought in and talk about why most people write postcards. Elicit from the children the kind of information that you would include in a postcard:

- Location
- Weather
- Activity
- People
- Food

Discuss the need for economy and clarity of language – when writing postcards people often miss out words and only include the most important phrases, for example: ‘We’re having lovely weather here’ becomes ‘Lovely weather’. Look again at Roald Dahl’s postcards and consider how successful he was at communicating the information in a few words.

## Main:

Ask the children to choose a *James and the Giant Peach* character to focus on for the postcard writing task. In pairs, one child takes the role of the character safely arrived in New York at the end of the story and the other is a friend or relative back in England. Creatures who have lost all their family, such as the Ladybird and Miss Spider, could be writing to a friend. The “characters” should tell their “friend” their most exciting news and highlights of the journey, then swap roles. Write an example as a class before asking the children to compose their own postcard for which they will have to choose which events to focus on. Ask each child to fill in the back and front of the attached template.

## Plenary:

- Share some examples of the children’s work.
- Encourage children to enter the BA/High Life Roald Dahl’s Phizzwhizzing Postcard Competition on p.13.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT:

Organise your own competition: ask the children to post their postcards in a school ‘mailbox’ and give a prize for the best one.



# Postcards from Roald Dahl



Dear Mama Dec 9th  
Just to make it a bit  
easier, I will be coming  
home on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> not the 18<sup>th</sup>  
I will arrive a Cardiff a focus  
Orelah please meet me, if  
that is not quite planer  
maybe let me know what you  
want to know about it.  
Love from Boy

Dear Mama  
I have arrived here  
all right. I have not eaten  
any of what you gave me  
except one little chocolate  
and on Bristol station  
Hoggar it was sick and when  
I looked at it it was sick but  
now I am quite all right.  
Love from  
Roald  
P.S. Remember not to send bottles  
but children's newspaper.

Dear Mama  
I hope you are quite well.  
I don't mind when you  
come, but if you come on  
the 11<sup>th</sup> I think it would  
be better because we have  
our pocket money to buy  
some fireworks and then you  
can come and see the big display.  
Please let me know soon.  
Love from Boy

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> 1926.  
Dear Mama,  
This is my order:-  
French = 7<sup>th</sup>  
Geometry = 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Hist. = 3<sup>rd</sup>  
History = 5<sup>th</sup>  
Gram & comp = 5<sup>th</sup>  
Latin = 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Q.P. = 15<sup>th</sup>  
Geog = 5<sup>th</sup>  
Arith = 15<sup>th</sup>  
Algebra = 15<sup>th</sup>  
I have gone down in  
Xirinity because  
a boy told me the wrong  
preparation and I did  
not know much about  
it.  
Love from  
Roald





# Write a postcard

POST CARD

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CORRESPONDENCEADDRESS





### 3. WRITE A STORY ABOUT A HAPPY LANDING

Jame and his friends  
make a spectacular entrance  
in New York when they land  
on top of the Empire State  
building. What would happen  
if they landed:

- In your school playground?
- On top of the main building  
in your town?

Explore these ideas in a short story  
or news report.



### 4. WRITE A POEM TO INTRODUCE EACH OTHER

James composes a poem to introduce all the creatures. Put all the children's names in a hat and ask each child to draw a name. They then write a verse of a poem (or just two lines) to introduce the person they have drawn, choosing one thing to say about them.





# Remember, Remember...

Research and prepare a display on life in **1961**, the publication year of *James and the Giant Peach*.

## 1. PICTURE THIS: BIG NAMES AND BIG EVENTS

Use the internet to find pictures to illustrate the first two sections below for an introduction to your display on what was happening in 1961. Write captions for the pictures you find explaining why the people and events in them were or are important.



*The next big thing: made in 1961*

- ITV showed the first episode of *The Avengers*.
- The Beatles performed at the Cavern in Liverpool for the first time.
- Audrey Hepburn starred in the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.
- Elvis Presley had four UK number one singles: *Are You Lonesome Tonight?*, *Wooden Heart*, *Surrender* and *His Latest Flame*.
- *Andy Pandy* and *The Flower Pot Men* were at the height of their careers on *Watch with Mother*.

*Born in 1961*

- Diana, Princess of Wales
- Tom Ford, fashion designer
- Boy George, musician
- Ricky Gervais, comedian
- William Hague, politician
- Frank Bruno, boxer



## 2. MEMORIES OF 1961: CHILDREN'S LIVES

*Start with your school:*

- Did it exist in 1961?
- Was it in the same building? If so, how has the building changed?
- If it was in another building, ask your teacher if there are any pictures available of the old building. You might also be able to find pictures and information in your local library or local history library or in the archives of your local newspaper.
- If your school was formed after 1961 from another older school, find out about the older school.
- Anyone teaching in 1961 is likely to have retired by now but find out if any retired teachers from your school still live nearby and would be willing to visit to share their memories of 1961.





*Spread the net:*

Talk to relatives, neighbours, teachers and family friends who are aged between 56 and 61, and so were at primary school in 1961. Some of them might be former pupils at your school (see above). Interview them about their memories, taking notes in a notebook or using a voice recorder.

*Ask them about:*

- Memories of school, both what they did in class and games they played at breaks
- Holidays and family outings
- Favourite foods and treats
- What they liked to do after school and at weekends
- In particular, ask if they remember reading *James and the Giant Peach*, and any other Roald Dahl books later on.

*Ask if they still have any*

- Favourite comics, books and toys
- Diaries, letters and photographs and if they would be willing to lend them (explain when they will be returned).
- Is anyone in your family 50 this year? Perhaps one of your neighbours or your parents' friends? Ask them if their families have told them any stories about what happened in the year they were born.

Type up your recorded notes and memories, take pictures of the interviewees today with a digital camera and display alongside pictures of the interviewees in 1961, if possible, and their belongings from 1961. Make sure all the original documents and belongings are well looked after and make careful notes of who they need to be returned to with a thank-you note.

If your school has a Flip video camera or similar, and editing software, you could film your interviews as well as or instead of writing reports. Show the films as part of the display or upload them on the school website.

*Further development:*

You could expand this activity to include the same work but set in 2011, to draw comparisons and differences between children's lives now and 50 years ago.





# Follow that peach!

In Roald Dahl's famous story *James and the Giant Peach*, an enormous escaped rhinoceros from London Zoo has eaten James's parents. And it gets worse! James is packed off to live with his two really horrible aunts, Sponge and Spiker. Poor James is miserable, until something peculiar happens and James finds himself on the most wonderful and extraordinary journey aboard a giant peach . . .

Now, we need **YOU** to join the mission to roll James's **Giant Peach** around the world.

You can send a virtual peach to anyone in the world or download a paper Peach-gram to send through the post – just keep it rolling!

Join the mission at  
[www.followthatpeach.com](http://www.followthatpeach.com)



# WIN a giant Roald Dahl weekend in New York

With the **Roald Dahl Phizz-whizzing Postcard Competition!** 

Follow in the steps of James and his friends by imagining you are writing a postcard to a friend or relative from the most amazing place you have ever been (or invent your own place). One lucky family will win the chance to see New York as James and his friends would have, including:

- a helicopter flight
- a trip to the Empire State Building
- a spending spree in Toys R Us and
- the chance to meet Lucy Dahl, one of Roald Dahl's daughters!

Stories should be a maximum of 300 words for 5-8s and 500 for 9-12s.

Closing date: 30 September 2011

Find out more and upload your entries at: [www.bahighlife.com/Competitions-And-Offers/Roald-Dahl-Competition.html](http://www.bahighlife.com/Competitions-And-Offers/Roald-Dahl-Competition.html)





# James <sup>and</sup> the Giant Peach

## Mini Quiz



- 1 Until what age did James have a happy life?
- 2 How did James' parents die?
- 3 What are James' aunts' names?
- 4 Which of the creatures in the Giant Peach does James tie shoelaces for?
- 5 How many feet does this creature have?
- 6 Which of the creatures is described as a "lady firefly without wings"?
- 7 Which of the creatures lived happily ever after with the Head of the Fire Department?
- 8 What do the Cloud-Men make in summer to practise for the winter?
- 9 How old was Roald Dahl when *James and the Giant Peach* was published?
- 10 In an early version of the story, James found a different kind of giant fruit. What was it?

**ANSWERS:** 1. Four; 2. They were eaten by a rhinoceros; 3. Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker; 4. The Centipede; 5. 42; 6. The Glow-Worm; 7. The Ladybird; 8. Halistones; 9. 45; 10. Cherry.





# The Grand Roald Dahl Age-Matic Chart

Want to read more Roald Dahl books but not sure which to choose? It's not surprising— Roald Dahl wrote books for children of all ages, as well as a few books for grown-ups, too. Use this helpful guide to Puffin's range to pick a book that will suit you!



## Picture Books

*The Minpins* (9780141501789, £7.99)  
*The Enormous Crocodile* (9780141501765, £6.99)  
*The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me* (9780141501772, £7.99)



**3+** *The Enormous Crocodile* (9780141501765, £6.99)  
*The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me* (9780141322780, £4.99)  
*Esio Trot* (9780141322797, £4.99)  
**All these books are great for reading along together.**



**5+** *The Magic Finger* (9780141322681, £4.99)  
*The Twits* (9780141322759, £5.99)  
*Fantastic Mr Fox* (9780141322650, £4.99)  
**With a bit of help, young readers will enjoy these lively stories.**



**7+** *George's Marvellous Medicine* (9780141322735, £5.99)  
*The BFG* (9780141322629, £6.99)  
*James and the Giant Peach* (9780141322636, £5.99)  
*Matilda* (9780141322667, £6.99)  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (9780141322711, £6.99)  
*Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* (9780141322698, £6.99)  
*The Witches* (9780141322643, £6.99)  
**Whizzpopping adventures for children who can confidently read on their own.**



**10+** *Danny the Champion of the World* (9780141322674, £6.99)  
*Boy* (9780141322766, £6.99)  
*Going Solo* (9780141322742, £6.99)  
*More About Boy* (9780141324470, £10.99)  
**Boy and Going Solo are books about Roald Dahl's childhood.  
 More About Boy contains lots of fascinating never-seen-before archive material.**



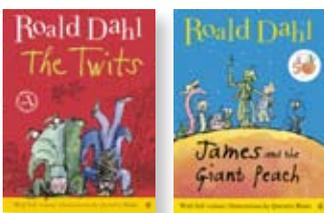


**12+** *The Great Automatic Grammatizator and other stories* (9780141311500, £6.99)  
*The Wonderful World of Henry Sugar and six more* (9780141311494, £6.99)  
*Skin and other stories* (9780141311517, £6.99)  
**Gripping stories for older readers.**

## Poems

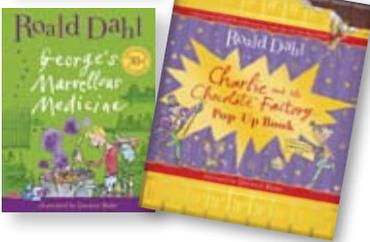


*Dirty Beasts* (9780141501741, £6.99)  
*Revolting Rhymes* (9780141501758, £7.99)  
*Rhyme Stew* (9780141323602, £4.99)  
**Vile verse that's great!**



## Full Colour and Novelty Books

*The Twits* (9780141331249, £7.99)  
*James and the Giant Peach* (9780241953303, £7.99)  
**NEW!** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (9780141332123, £12.99)  
*Fantastic Mr Fox* (9780141329109, £7.99)  
**NEW!** *George's Marvellous Medicine* (9780141335582, £7.99)  
**NEW!** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Pop-Up Book* (9780141328874, £14.99)





# Read on with Roald Dahl

Here are some more fun ways to continue your adventures through the Wonderful World of Dahl!

- **REGISTER FOR QUENTIN BLAKE VIRTUALLY LIVE!**

A rare opportunity to see Roald Dahl's legendary illustrator, Quentin Blake, talking, drawing and answering YOUR questions on from 2.15-3.00pm on 28 September 2011.

Register now at [www.quentinblakevirtuallylive.co.uk](http://www.quentinblakevirtuallylive.co.uk)

- **THE ROALD DAHL APP**

Download the Roald Dahl App. Contains extracts from all his favourite stories plus all the latest Roald Dahl news. Available to download FREE from September 2011.



- **THE DAHLICIOUS DRESS UP DAY – 30TH SEPTEMBER**

A marvellous new event packed with Roald Dahl magic, mischief and creativity. The aim is to have millions of chidders up and down the country dressing up as Big Friendly Giants, Oompa-Loompas, Giant Peaches and all kinds of phizz-whizzing Roald Dahl characters - all in aid of ROALD DAHL'S MARVELLOUS CHILDREN'S CHARITY, to raise lots of money for sick children with lifelong illnesses.

To take part in this nationwide event, sign up now for your fundraising pack at [www.roalddahlcharity.org/schools](http://www.roalddahlcharity.org/schools) or email [schools@roalddahlcharity.org](mailto:schools@roalddahlcharity.org)

- **WATCH A FILM... OR MUSICAL!**

Lots of Roald Dahl books have been turned into films that you can watch on DVD—like *The BFG*, *Danny the Champion of the World* and *James and the Giant Peach*. And if you like *Matilda*, you'll love a new musical of the story that is being staged at the Cambridge Theatre in London by the Royal Shakespeare Company from 24th October 2011.

Get more info at [www.matildathemusical.com](http://www.matildathemusical.com) or book tickets by calling 0844 4124652.

- **GO ONLINE**

Besides the Roald Dahl Reading Relay, the official Roald Dahl website at [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com) has bags of great stuff about the writer, his books and his characters, including some fun games to play online. You'll also find lots of info about Roald Dahl Day.

- **VISIT THE ROALD DAHL MUSEUM AND STORY CENTRE**

Great Missenden, in Buckinghamshire where Roald Dahl lived and wrote most his books, is now home to the fantastic **Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre**. It has lots of interesting displays about him and his books, plus free craft and storytelling sessions.

Get more info at [www.roalddahlmuseum.org](http://www.roalddahlmuseum.org) or call 01494 892192 for more information.

