

Task 1: The Witches - Story Opening



Click the Witches book which should send you to a link so you can listen to the opening extract from Roald Dahl's 'The Witches' read by Stanley Tucci.

1) This extract, which opens the novel, begins with the author highlighting the difference between fairy-tale and REAL WITCHES and stressing the difficulty in telling the difference between a witch and any other person. Why do you think Roald Dahl decided to

open the novel in this way?

2) In which ways do REAL WITCHES differ from normal people?

3) In which ways are they similar?

4) Why are REAL WITCHES so dangerous to children?

5) What could children do to avoid REAL WITCHES?

6) Roald Dahl's REAL WITCHES live amongst humans and are hard to distinguish from normal people. Does this make them more or less scary? Why?

7) If you were creating a scary character what characteristics would you give them?

8) How did the reader of this extract (Stanley Tucci) help to build a sense of atmosphere? Did he raise or lower his voice? Did he speak quickly or slowly? Did he use facial expressions or gesture to help him tell the story? Was this effective? Why?

BONUS TASK :

Write your own story opening introducing a scary character. Think about what makes your character different and scary - do they look scary or is it the way that they act? Consider the characteristics you identified earlier and don't be afraid to get creative!

My Story Opening Inspired by the Witches



Task 2: The BFG - Don't Judge a book by it's cover!

Read the following extracts from the BFG

EXTRACT ONE

From Chapter 3: 'The BFG'

The Giant picked up the trembling Sophie with one hand and carried her across the cave and put her on the table.

Now he really is going to eat me, Sophie thought.

The Giant sat down and stared hard at Sophie. He had truly enormous ears. Each one was as big as the wheel of a truck and he seemed to be able to move them inwards and outwards from his head as he wished.

'I is hungry!' the Giant boomed. He grinned, showing his massive square teeth. The teeth were very white and very square and they sat in his mouth like huge slices of white bread.

'P . . . please don't eat me,' Sophie stammered.

The Giant let out a bellow of laughter. 'Just because I is a giant, you think I is a man-gobbling cannybull!' he shouted.

EXTRACT TWO

From Chapter 3: 'The BFG'

'I is a very mixed-up Giant,' the Giant said. 'But I does my best. And I is not nearly as mixed up as the other giants. I know one who gallops all the way to Wellington for his supper.'

'Wellington?' Sophie said. 'Where is Wellington?'

'Your head is full of squashed flies,' the Giant said. 'Wellington is in New Zealand. The human beans in Wellington has an especially scrumdiddlyumptious taste, so says the Welly-eating Giant.'

'What do the people of Wellington taste of?' Sophie asked.

'Boots,' the Giant said.

'Of course,' Sophie said. 'I should have known.'

Sophie decided that this conversation had now gone on long enough. If she was going to be eaten, she'd rather get it over and done with right away than be kept hanging around any more. 'What sort of human beings do *you* eat?' she asked, trembling.

'*Me!*' shouted the Giant, his mighty voice making the glass jars rattle on their shelves. 'Me gobbling up human beans! This I never! The others, yes! All the others is gobbling them up every night, but not me! I is a freaky Giant! I is a nice and jumbly Giant! I is the only nice and jumbly Giant in Giant Country! I is THE BIG FRIENDLY GIANT! I is the BFG. What is *your* name?'

'My name is Sophie,' Sophie said, hardly daring to believe the good news she had just heard.



Responding to the text...

1) What does Sophie think the Giant is going to do?

2) Why does she think this?

3) How do her feelings towards the Giant change?

4) Cut up and use the **APPEARANCE** and **PERSONALITY** cards and match each **APPEARANCE** card to the most likely corresponding **PERSONALITY** card.

What **assumptions** have you made about the characters' personalities, based on their appearances?

Sophie is also **judged** the BFG based on his appearance: because he looked a bit different, she thought that he would be a bad person. But the BFG turned out to be a Friendly Giant, despite the way that he looked. **You cannot tell what a person is like inside from the way they look on the outside!**

5) The other giants' personalities do actually match their appearances - they are large and scary-looking, and their behaviour is violent and cruel. Do you think that all cruel people **look** horrible on the outside?

6) Now switch some of the cards to create characters with personalities that don't necessarily match their appearance.

Using these cards to help if needed, you now have to create in more detail your own character whose appearance does *not* match their personality! Work through the **Character Worksheet** provided, you should draw and label a picture of your character, including as much detail as they possibly can, before going on to describe your character's appearance and personality.

Use the most *delumptiously* exciting words you can think of - and, as an extra *brain-boggling* stretch, can you come up with some *gloriumptious* similes?



APPEARANCE CARDS



A fairy
PRINCESS
WITH A DELICATE
SMILE
and hair the colour of
SUNLIGHT

A wrinkly OLD
GRANDAD
with a
**HEARING
AID**

A WITCH with a
CROOKED
BACK AND A
FACE
sprinkled with WARTS

A teenage girl with
**SPIKY
PINK HAIR**
and a NOSE RING

A ten-year-old **BOY** with
BROKEN
GLASSES AND
PLASTERS
on both knees

A **KNIGHT**
ON HORSEBACK
DRESSED IN
shimmering
ARMOUR



PERSONALITY CARDS



WICKED and **CRUEL**,
this character delights
in **DISASTER**. They
create **MISCHIEF**
and **MISFORTUNE**
wherever they go.

This character is rather
CLUMSY. They never
remember to look where
they are going, so they
are **ALWAYS** having
ACCIDENTS!

This character is quite
FORGETFUL and can
often be found **SNORING**
in their armchair.

SWEET and **GENTLE**,
this character is beloved
by everyone they meet.
They have a heart of gold,
and they are particularly
kind to **ANIMALS**.

This character is as
STRONG as an ox and as
BRAVE as a lion. They
are always looking for
OPPORTUNITIES to
HELP people in distress.

SULKY and **RUDE**, this
character enjoys chewing
gum and listening to
PUNK-ROCK music.



CHARACTER WORKSHEET



Character drawing:

Description of appearance:

Description of personality:

Task 3: The BFG - Dreams!

Read the following extracts from the BFG

EXTRACT ONE

From Chapter 15: 'The Great Plan'

'Can you make a person dream absolutely anything in the world?'

'Anything you like,' the BFG said proudly.

'If I said I wanted to dream that I was in a flying bathtub with silver wings, could you make me dream it?'

'I could,' the BFG said.

'But how?' Sophie said. 'You obviously don't have exactly that dream in your collection.'

'I do not,' the BFG said. 'But I could soon be mixing it up.'

'How could you mix it up?'

'It's a little bit like mixing a cake,' the BFG said. 'If you is putting the right amounts of all the different things into it, you is making the cake come out any way you want, sugary, spongy curranty, Christmassy or grobswitchy. It is the same with dreams.'

'Go on,' Sophie said.

'I has dillions of dreams on my shelves, right or left?'

'Right,' Sophie said.

'I has dreams about bathtubs, lots of them. I has dreams about silver wings. I has dreams about flying. So all I has to do is mix those dreams together in the proper way and I is very quickly making a dream where you is flying in a bathtub with silver wings.'

'I see what you mean,' Sophie said. 'But I didn't know you could mix one dream with another.'

'Dreams *like* being mixed,' the BFG answered. 'They is getting very lonesome all by themselves in those glassy bottles.'



EXTRACT TWO

From Chapter 16: 'Mixing the Dream'

In about half an hour the BFG had found all the dreams he wanted and had tipped them into the one huge jar. He put the jar on the table. Sophie sat watching him but said nothing. Inside the big jar, lying on the bottom of it, she could clearly see about fifty of those oval sea-green jellyish shapes, all pulsing gently in and out, some lying on top of others, but each one still a quite separate individual dream.

'Now we is mixing them,' the BFG announced. He went to the cupboard where he kept his bottles of frobscottle, and from it he took a gigantic egg-beater. It was one of those that has a handle which you turn, and down below there are a lot of overlapping blades that go whizzing around. He inserted the bottom end of this contraption into the big jar where the dreams were lying. 'Watch,' he said. He started turning the handle very fast.

Flashes of green and blue exploded inside the jar. The dreams were being whisked into a sea-green froth.

'The poor things!' Sophie cried.

'They is not feeling it,' the BFG said as he turned the handle. 'Dreams is not like human beans or animals. They has no brains. They is made of zozimus.'

After about a minute, the BFG stopped whisking. The whole bottle was now full to the brim with large bubbles. They were almost exactly like the bubbles we ourselves blow from soapy water, except that these had even brighter and more beautiful colours swimming on their surfaces.



Responding to the text...

1) What does Sophie find out that the BFG can do with the dreams?

2) Your task is to mix up some of the BFG's dreams!

Use the set of **DREAM LABELS** (found on the next page). Each of these labels belongs to a dream jar from *The BFG*, cut them out and place them all face down in front of you. Turn over two labels and imagine that the BFG has tipped these two dreams into one jar and is whizzing them up with his gigantic egg-beater.

What will happen to the dreams?
How will they combine into one new dream?

Do this a few times coming up with new mixes of dreams.

Decide which 2 dreams you want to mix together and think about a short plot for your new, mixed dream.

How does the dream begin?
What happens next?
How does the dream end?

Write your dream down on the **DREAM MIXING** worksheet, being sure to make it as exciting -or scary! - as possible, you can also use the Illustration sheet to create a detailed illustration of the dream you have created.

DREAM LABELS



This **DREAM** is about how
I is **SAVING** my **TEECHER**
from **DROWNING**.

I **DISCOVER** that if I is
STARING very hard at my
teecher in a **SPESHAL** way,
I is able to put her to **SLEEP**.

I is **MAKING** myself a **MARVELUS**
pair of **SUCTION BOOTS** and
when I put them on I is abel to
walk strate up the kitshun wall
and across the ceiling.

I has **RITTEN** a book
and it is **SO EXCITING**
nobody can put it down.

I is **CLIMBING** Mount
Everast with just my
PUSSY-CAT for cumpany.

I is **INVENTING** a car that
runs on **TOOTHPASTE**.

I is abel to **MAKE** the
ELEKTRIK LITES go on and
off just by **WISHING** it.

I is abel to **JUMP** out of
any **HIGH WINDOW** and
FLOTE down safely.

I has a **PET BEE** that
makes **ROCK** and **ROLL**
musik when it flies.

I is only an **EIGHT** year old
little boy but I is growing a
SPLENDID bushy beard and
all the other boys is **JALOUS**.



DREAM MIXING



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Take two **DREAM LABELS** and read them carefully.
- Glue the labels on to the spaces provided on your sheet.
- Next, imagine that the **BFG** has whizzed up your two dreams with his gigantic egg-beater!
- Write down your new, combined dream in the space below. Remember to include a clear **beginning**, a **middle** and an **end**.
- Illustrate an **EXCITING SCENE** from your **DREAM**.



Glue DREAM LABEL ONE here.

Glue DREAM LABEL TWO here.

'After about a minute, the BFG stopped whisking. The whole bottle was now full to the brim with large bubbles ...'

My new dream:

Task 4: Revolting Rhymes

Read some of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes or Watch and listen to some of the poems below:

Three Little Pigs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5DS2DnsJ04>

Goldilocks and the 3 Bears: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxHn2v3dz5E>

Jack and the Bean Stalk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpAoCUN4toE>

Little Red Riding Hood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3uVQIhSYfy>

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUlq2OA_ZOM

Cinderella: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtXGmnR9F5Y>

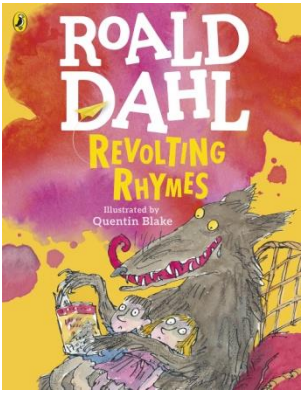


Roald Dahl took traditional fairy stories and turned them into wonderfully wicked Revolting Rhymes.

Have a go at transforming part of a well loved fairy story into your own Revolting Rhyme. Remember to change their own story to make it funny or slightly gory and revolting!

Remember to Use:

- Rhyming pairs/couplets at end of lines -
*I guess you think you know this story,
You don't. The real one's much more gory.
The phoney one, the one you know.
Was cooked up years and years ago.*
- Adjectives - "slimy cellar" "Ugly Sisters"
- Repetition - "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow the house down"
- Similes - "creeping quietly as a mouse"
- Alliteration - "pig peeping".



My own mischievous poem based on
Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.