

The world of Roald Dahl

1. _____

Is there a child who doesn't know the stories of Roald Dahl? His work **delights** millions of us in our **childhood**. He **wrote** his first children's stories, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Charlie and the Chocolate*

Factory in the 1960s, but the **characters** are just as popular today as they were in the past.

As well as reading the books, children today often **discover** Dahl's characters through plays and films.



2. _____

Recent films of Dahl's books include *Fantastic Mr Fox* (2009) and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005). The scripts weren't written by Dahl – he died in 1990 – but that didn't stop the fans watching! *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was very popular – the film **made** almost 500 million dollars **worldwide**! Other film **adaptations** include *Matilda* (1996) and *The Witches* (1990). Now there are also popular musical versions of these two stories. Lists of things to do in London usually suggest a trip to the theatre to see these **shows**.

3. _____

Millions of people love Dahl's work years after he wrote the stories. Why? Perhaps it's because the characters make us laugh and they can make us **scared**. Dahl **knew** what children liked, but how? He **began** to write books for children after his own children were born. He couldn't do it before then, he said.

4. _____

Dahl sometimes used people and events from his childhood in his stories. He went to boarding school, which he **hated**. Some of the teachers were unkind. The **cruel** teacher in *Matilda* – Mrs Trunchball – was like some of Dahl's teachers. But Dahl had good memories, too. Sometimes, Cadbury – a British chocolate maker – sent a small box to every boy at Dahl's school. Inside the box were new chocolate bars! The boys **ate** them and **sent comments** to Cadbury. A dream job! Can you guess which story this **memory found** its way into?!

1. Match paragraph headings A-F to paragraphs 1-4. There are two headings you do not need.

- A Was chocolate his favourite food?
- B Dahl's life in his stories.
- C Dahl's stories on the screen and stage.
- D A world-famous writer.
- E Dahl becomes a millionaire!
- F What is it that readers like?

2. Match the highlighted words in the text to definitions 1-12.

1 (verb) pleases, makes someone or something happy.

delight

2 (noun) versions, different forms

3 (adjective) around the world

4 (adjective) frightened

5 (noun) the years when people are children

6 (noun) things you watch at a theatre

7 (adjective) unkind, evil.

8 (adjective) liked by a lot of people

9 (verb) find out about

10 (noun) opinions and thoughts

11 (noun) something you remember from the past

12 (noun) people in a story

3. Write the infinitive form of the underlined irregular verbs in the text.

1 wrote _____

2 made _____

3 knew _____

4 began _____

5 ate _____

6 sent _____

7 found _____

4. CHALLENGE! Write a paragraph about your favourite story. Describe the most important characters and write what happens in the story.
