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books



THE
GLORIUMPTIOUS
WORLDS OF
**ROALD
DAHL**

Illustrated by
QUENTIN BLAKE

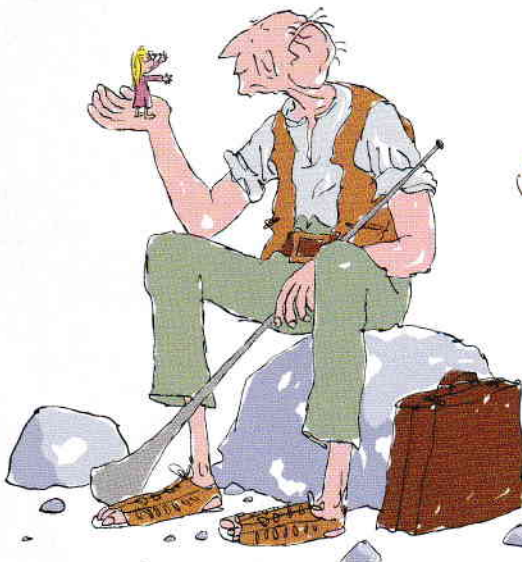
Written by
STELLA CALDWELL



WELBECK



Worlds of Roald Dahl



Danny the Champion
of the World

35-37

The BFG

51-58



George's
Marvellous
Medicine

44-50



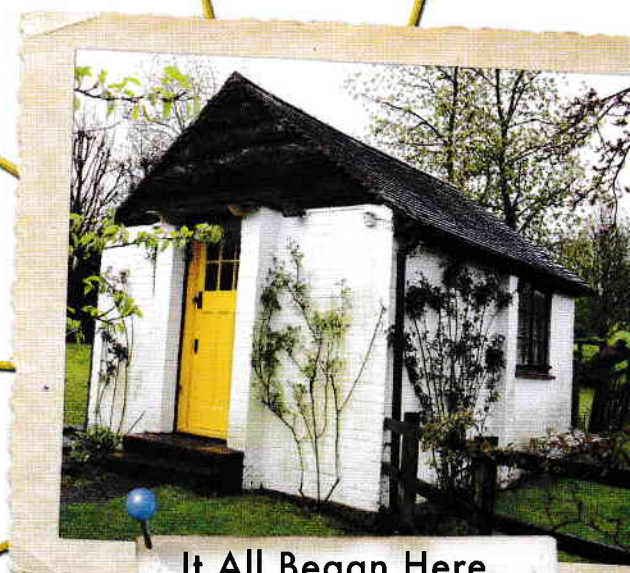
Matilda

65-71



The Magic Finger

72-73



It All Began Here...

6-11

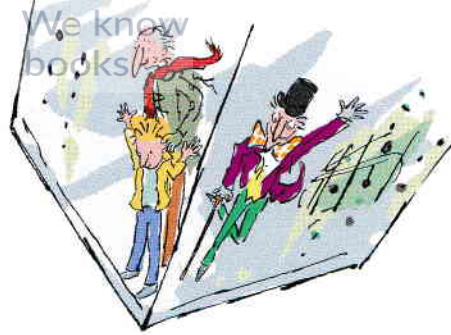


The Twits

38-43

Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator

28-30

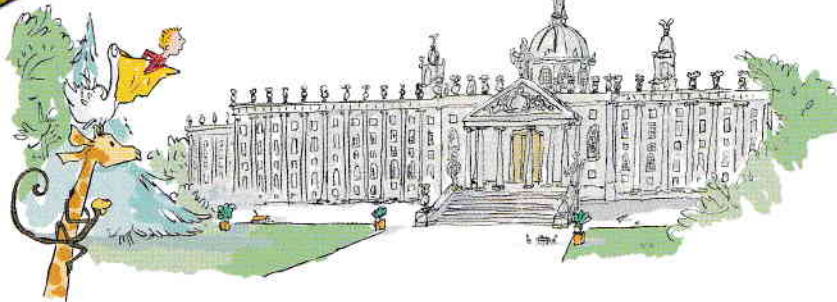
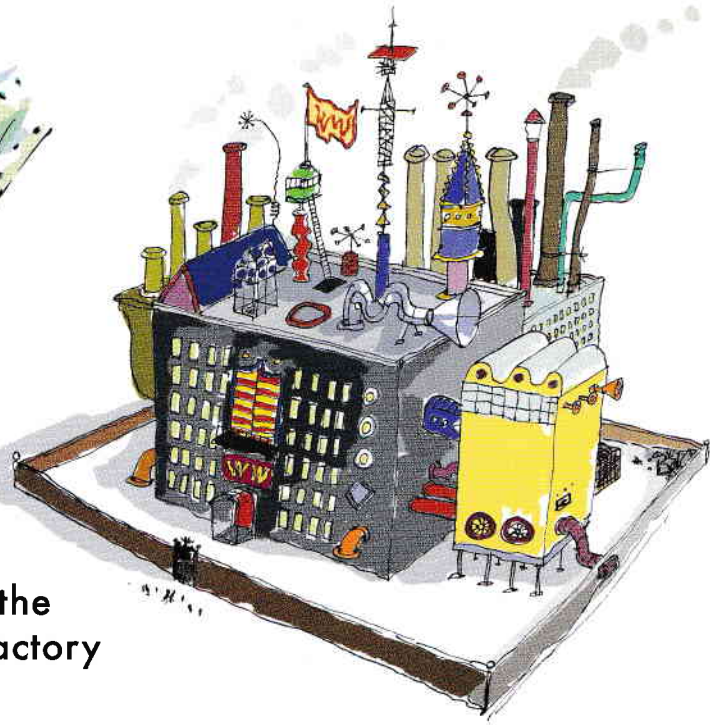


The Witches

59-64

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

20-27

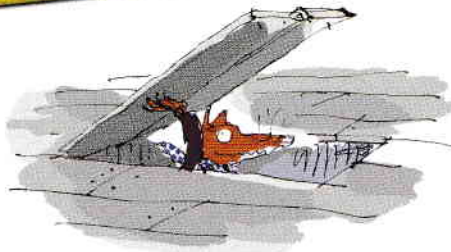


The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

78-79

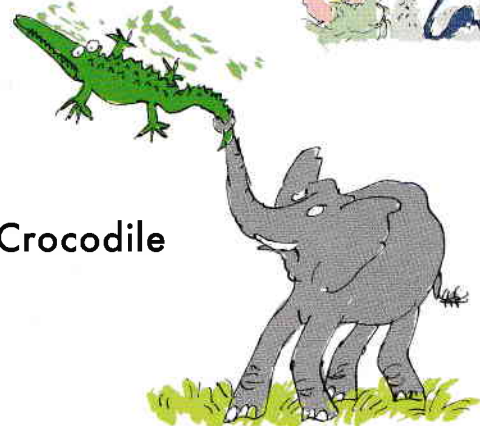
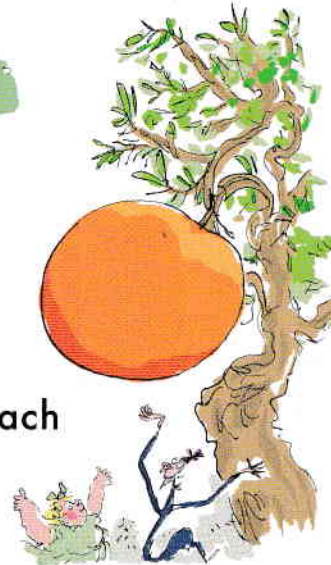
Fantastic Mr Fox

31-34



James and the Giant Peach

12-19



The Enormous Crocodile

76-77

Esio Trot

74-75



There's more...

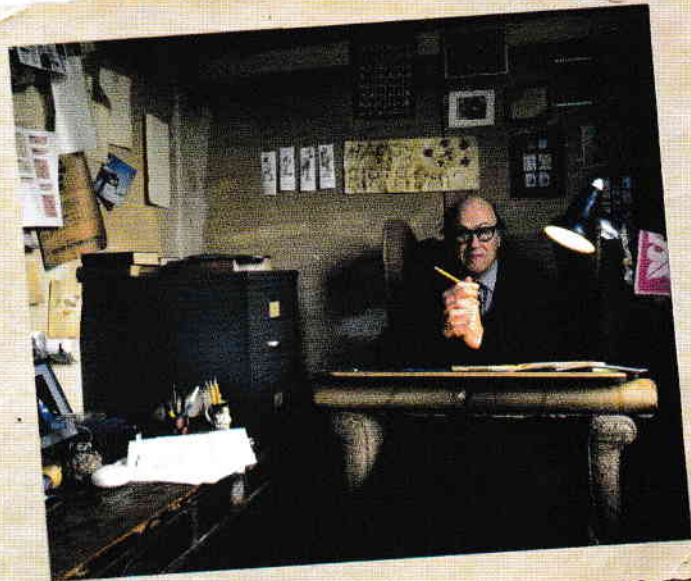
Don't miss the bonus envelope
full of fun at the back!

Roald's Writing Hut

Clever Mr Fox, eccentric Willy Wonka and the wicked Grand High Witch first came to life in a hut in Roald Dahl's garden. This was no ordinary shed, though. Instead, it was filled with photographs, pictures, extraordinary objects and personal mementoes that sparked Roald's imagination.

ROALD'S ROUTINE

Roald described the peaceful space he created in his hut as his "little nest". He kept a strict routine, working for two hours each morning, and two more in the afternoon. His chair – which had once belonged to his mother – had a hole cut in its back to stop it pressing on his painful spine, and an old suitcase served as a leg rest. Roald liked to write with the curtains drawn to block out any distractions.



TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Roald never learned to type, but instead wrote all his stories in pencil on yellow lined paper. He always used the same brand of pencil, and kept exactly six by his side – five in a jug, and one to work with.



WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

A table in the writing hut held all sorts of curious objects from Roald's own life. These mementoes included a model grasshopper given to him by a fan of *James and the Giant Peach*, a jar of spinal shavings, and fragments from an ancient vase he found in Greece.



A rather gruesome object in the writing hut was Roald's very own hip bone! When he had an operation to replace it, the doctor said it was the largest he had ever seen.

Childhood Memories

Roald's colourful childhood provided the inspiration for many of the characters he later created and the stories he wrote. In his autobiography *Boy*, Roald said of these memories: "Some are funny. Some are painful... I suppose that is why I have always remembered them so vividly."

FANTASTIC FAMILY

Roald was born in Wales to Norwegian parents. When he was three, his seven-year-old sister, Astri, died. Several weeks later, his father also died. Following these tragedies, Roald's "dauntless" mother raised Roald and his four siblings alone. He adored her, claiming she was the greatest influence on his life.

Roald's older half-brother, Louis, once invented a boomerang called a "Silly Wonka". It later provided Roald with just the inspiration he needed in choosing the perfect name for the fantastic factory owner in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - Willy Wonka!



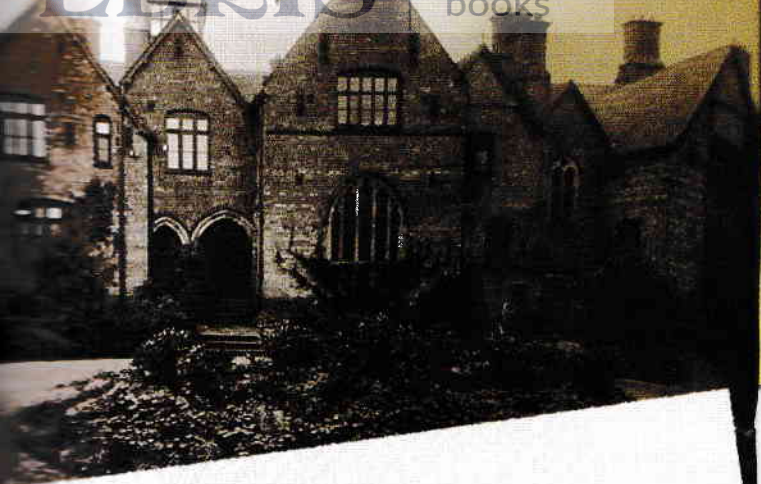
Roald, c1920

'She told us stories
about Norwegian
trolls and all the other
mythical Norwegian
creatures that lived in
the dark pine forests,
for she was
**A GREAT TELLER
OF TALES.'**

Roald describing his mother,
or "Mama"

LIBRIS

We know
books



Repton School, which Roald
attended from the age of 13

SCHOOLDAYS

When Roald turned nine, he was sent away to boarding school. In his first term at St Peters he was desperately homesick. He even pretended he was very ill with appendicitis so that he could be sent home for a few days. Roald hated the bullying and harsh punishments that were part of school life. No prizes for guessing where he got all his ideas for Crunchem Hall and the ghastly Miss Trunchbull!



SWEETS!

In *Boy*, Roald tells of how he and his friends lived for the local sweet shop. There was one problem, though - its owner, Mrs Pratchett, was a mean, grimy and loathsome woman! Roald and four friends got their own back by placing a dead mouse in one of her jars of sweets. It's easy to see how Mrs Pratchett may have been the inspiration for two of Roald's most beastly creations, the Twits.

Roald's sweet tooth stayed with him all his life. One of the objects in his writing hut was a solid silver ball, like a small cannonball. The author treated himself to a daily lunchtime chocolate bar, and scrunched its silver wrapper into the ball each day.



Exciting Adventures

After finishing school, Roald's thirst for adventure took him to faraway places. For a while, he worked in East Africa, calling it the "land of palm trees and coconuts... and lions and elephants and deadly snakes". His accounts of this time tell of wonderful experiences, and encounters with a host of exotic animals.

FIGHTER PILOT

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Roald joined the Royal Air Force to train as a pilot. Flying high above the clouds was a delight for adventurous Roald, who described it as "marvellous fun". In 1940, he crashed his plane in the North African desert and spent six months in hospital. Roald's first published writing was a newspaper account of his crash.



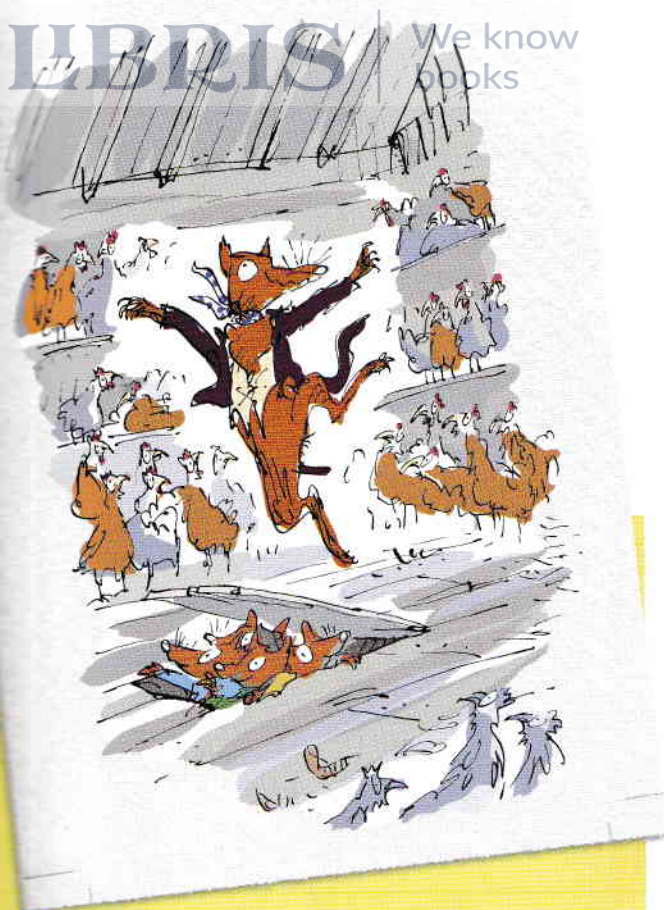
Roald enjoyed writing about all sorts of creatures, from huge giants to tiny tortoises. That might explain why he kept a tiny wooden tortoise in a jam jar on his desk.

'It was truly the most breathless and in a way **THE MOST EXHILARATING TIME** I have ever had in my life.'

Roald describing his time as a fighter pilot



Roald kept a model Hurricane plane in his writing hut, like those he flew in the Second World War.



Like Mr Fox,
Roald adored his family.

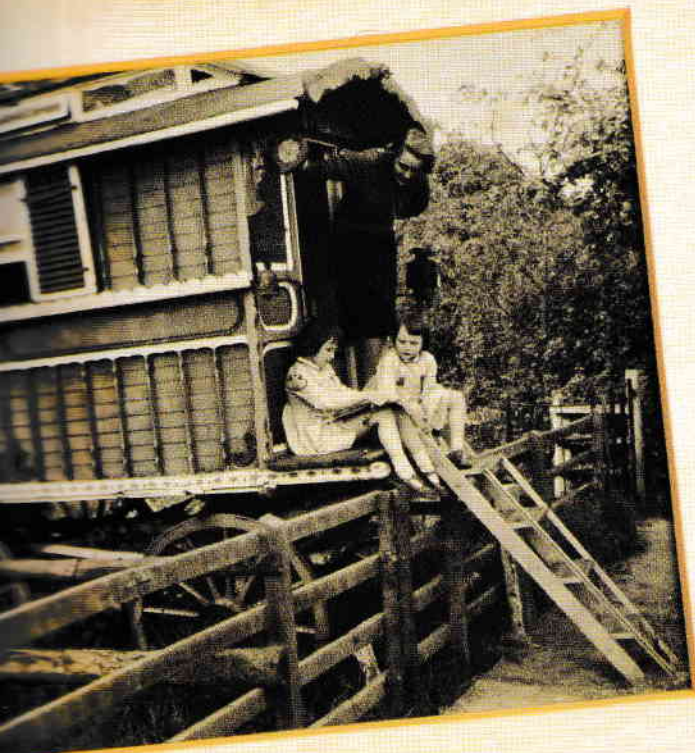
FAMILY LIFE

Roald loved to tell his five children magical stories – tales that turned into his books. He hung shimmering “witch’s balls” from their bedroom ceilings to keep bad witches away, and at bedtime gave them “witch’s potions” made out of canned peaches, milk and food colouring. He told them wonderful tales of a fantastic fox or a dream-catching giant, and even stood outside their windows pretending to blow in sweet dreams!



GIPSY CARAVAN

In *Danny the Champion of the World*, Danny and his beloved father live in an old gipsy caravan. Roald installed one in the garden of his family home, “Gipsy House”, for his children to play inside.



JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



James Henry Trotter,
Age 7

After James loses his loving parents to a hungry rhinoceros, he is forced to live with his beastly aunts Spiker and Sponge. However, events take a peculiar – and magical – turn...

3d EVENING STANDARD RUNAWAY RHINO DEVOURS SHOPPERS

Staff reporter Bill Hyde

Two people were killed by a rhinoceros after it escaped from London Zoo yesterday afternoon.

The enraged animal galloped along busy streets, charging startled pedestrians and ramming vehicles.

Witnesses described how the rhino gored and consumed its victims – named by police as Mr and Mrs Trotter – in less than 35 seconds: “Fortunately, their ordeal was over in a jiffy,” said shop-owner Mr McGraw.



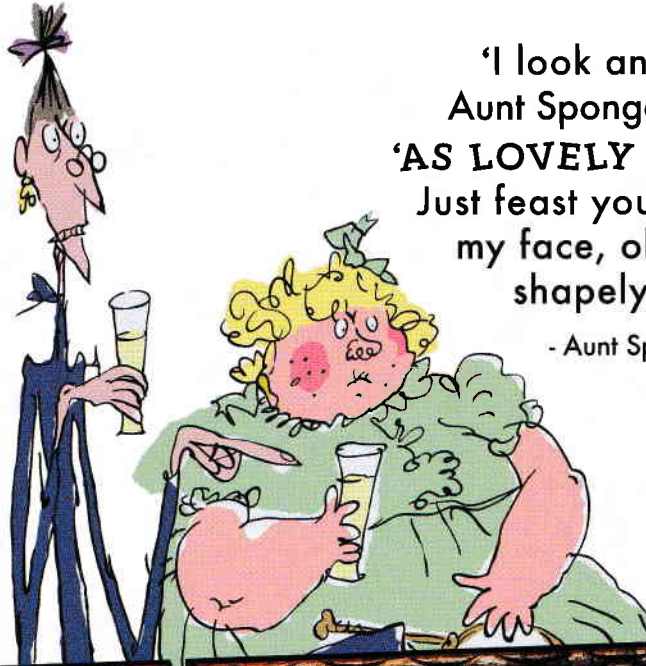
Roald Dahl trained as a fighter pilot during the Second World War, and loved the strange, magical world he discovered above the clouds. It's very likely that this experience inspired his ideas for *James and the Giant Peach*.

SPIKER AND SPONGE

Could any child have two more loathsome aunts than tall and bony Spiker or her enormous sister, Sponge? These repulsive sisters treat poor James like a slave, forcing him to do all the housework and never allowing him to see other children.

'Behold MY gorgeous curvy shape, my teeth, MY CHARMING GRIN! Oh beauteous me! How I adore my radiant looks! And please ignore the pimple on my chin.'

- Aunt Spiker -



'I look and smell,' Aunt Sponge declared, 'AS LOVELY AS A ROSE! Just feast your eyes upon my face, observe my shapely nose!'

- Aunt Sponge -

SPIKER AND SPONGE'S HOUSE RULES

FOR THE
DISGUSTING
LITTLE BRAT

1. IT IS FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THE GARDEN FOR ANY REASON.
2. COOKING, CLEANING, WOODCUTTING ETC. ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6AM AND 9PM EVERY DAY. LAZINESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
3. CRYING AND OTHER INFANTILE BEHAVIOUR IS NOT PERMITTED.
4. DISOBEDIENCE WILL RESULT IN BEING LOCKED UP WITH THE CELLAR RATS!! OR A BEATING.

THE MAGIC CRYSTALS

When James encounters the strange old man in his aunts' garden, it seems his troubles are over. Given a bag of sparkling green crystals, he is told that "fabulous, unbelievable things" will happen if he swallows them. As he runs off, however, James trips beneath an old peach tree – and can only watch as the precious crystals wriggle away into the soil...

'Something is about to happen,' he told himself.

**'SOMETHING
PECULIAR**
is about to happen
at any moment.'

- James Henry Trotter -

Spell No. 41 **C**ROCODILE RYSTALS

*** USE WITH CAUTION ***
- will cause rapid enlargement in all living things!

Boil one thousand long slimy crocodile
tongues in the skull of a dead witch
for twenty days and nights with
the eyeballs of a lizard.

Now add the following:
The fingers of a young monkey
The gizzard of a pig
The beak of a green parrot
The juice of a porcupine
Three spoonfuls of sugar

Stew for a week and leave the moon to do the rest.

Roald had a cherry tree in the grounds of his home. One day he got to thinking about what might happen if a cherry, or an apple or a pear just kept on growing... and growing. That thought turned into a peach of an idea!

