



Learning with Roald Dahl

The **Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre** in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, created this list of activities to do on Roald Dahl Day (or, as always, any time you like).

‘Do something with a child who can move objects with her eyes.’

Ask the children to imagine they have a very special talent. Working in pairs, get them to tell a partner about their skill and how they would use it. They could draw and label a picture of themselves using their talent.

In the first chapter of *Matilda*, Roald Dahl gives some examples of things he’d like to write on end-of-term school reports if he were a teacher, for example:

‘Your son Wilfred has spent six years as a grub in this school and we are still waiting for him to emerge from the chrysalis.’

What do the children think Mr Twit’s end-of-term report could have said? Or Danny’s? Or George’s? (You can have a look at some of Roald Dahl’s own school reports in *Boy*.)

With the guidance of Mrs Phelps at the library, Matilda read many classic titles, including *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens and *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

‘I liked ‘The Secret Garden’ best of all. It was full of mystery.’

Read **chapter 9** of *The Secret Garden* to the children. Ask them to listen carefully and jot down the words which help the reader to build a mental picture of the garden. Pupils can use the details from the description to draw their own picture of the walled garden.

Another of Matilda’s favourites was *The Just So Stories* by Rudyard Kipling. Read the children some of these wonderful tales such as *How the Leopard got his Spots*. Shared-write an explanatory tale about how the giraffe got his hump or how the tortoise got his shell before asking the children to create their own comic strip version.

One of Matilda’s friends, Lavender, decided to do something heroic and play a prank on Miss Trunchbull. With a lot of patience and a little bit of skill, she finally caught a newt in her net from the pond at the end of her garden. If possible, take the children pond-dipping; identify and draw any interesting plants and insects they find before carefully returning them. Alternatively have a look at some images of newts and pond-life and try collaging some creatures for a pond-scene display.

For more Roald Dahl fun go to roalddahl.com

