

# The BFG

By Roald Dahl

Illustrated by Quentin Blake

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## **Summary from book:**

Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

## **Book Information:**

Time Period: Contemporary

Setting Location: England

Genre: Fantasy

Curriculum Ties: language arts, geography

## **Booktalk:**

[http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/dahl\\_bfg.htm](http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/dahl_bfg.htm)

## **Author Information**

[www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com)

This website includes a biography of the author, information about his books, downloadable activities, and games of Roald Dahl's books. .

## **Illustrator Information**

<http://www.quentinblake.com>

## Pre-Reading Activities

1. Have students learn more about the author. The Roald Dahl website <http://www.roalddahl.com>, could be used for the children to research.
2. Have the students create a journal of hypotheses. Have them write what they know about giants, what they think they do, what they think the giants eat. Make sure that the students put all their ideas down on paper so that they can come back after they have read the book to see if they were able to make accurate predictions of the book.

## Chapters 1-3: The Witching Hour, Who? & The Snatch

### Questions:

1. How does Sophie describe the object that she saw in the street?
2. What is the use of the giant's the long trumpet?
3. What did Sophie say the witching hour was?

### Journal Topic:

What would you think was in the street if you saw what Sophie saw? What would you do when you saw it?

### Vocabulary:

Witching hour: (pg. 10) The hour of the night where everyone is in a deep sleep and all the dark things come out and about from hiding.

Trumpet: (pg. 13) A brass musical instrument with a flared bell.

Greengrocer: (page 13) a store which sells fruits and vegetables

Imprisoned: (pg.17)Put or keep in prison or a place like a prison.

## Chapters 4-6: The Cave, The BFG, & The Giants

### Questions:

1. What are human heads full of?

2. What does BFG stand for?
3. What items did Sophie notice first within the cave?
4. Why do you think that Sophie was so nervous when she first got to the cave?
5. Why is the BFG not going to eat Sophie?
6. What does the BFG say that the human beans taste like?

### Journal Topics:

Describe a time when you were in a new location surrounded by new people and/or new situations. Describe what you saw, what your initial feelings were, how reacted to the new place. Where were you and what did you end up doing there?

### Vocabulary

Gallop: Page 21- A very fast pace of running or moving.

Gobblefunk: Page 28- To confuse or mess up meanings of words.

BFG: Page 31- Big Friend Giant

## **Chapters 7-9: The Marvellous Ears, Snozzcumbers & The Bloodbottler**

### Questions:

1. Would you want to have huge ears like the BFG, why or why not? What is so special about the BFG's ears?
2. Do you think that it would be healthy if you only ate one type of food for the rest of your life? (For example the BFG only eats snozzcumbers: a type of vegetable)
3. Explain why you think the BFG mixes up some of his words when he talks. Do some of his sentences confuse you?
4. Predict what you think would have happened to Sophie if the giant had actually swallowed the bite of snozzcumber that Sophie was hiding in.

### Journal Writing:

If you could pick a food that you had to eat for the rest of your life, what food would it be and why?

### Vocabulary

Swizzfiggling: Page 45- The act of teasing someone.

Perambulator: Page 49 – baby carriage/stroller

Replusant: Page 50- Used to describe something outstanding.

Forlorn: Page 50 – sad

Winsome: Page 52 – very pleasant; charming

Cockles: Page 58- Crazy.

## **Chapters 10-12: Frobscottle and Whizzpoppers, Journey to Dream Country & Dream-Catching**

### Questions:

1. The BFG has a drink that is similar to the soda that we drink, but what is the main difference between our soda and his drink?
2. If you were in the BFG's pocket and the other giants began to throw him around, what do you think would have been your first reaction? Describe some of your emotions.
3. What summer time activity is kind of represented by the BFG going and catching dreams in his net and placing them into jars?
4. What do you think that BFG will do with the nightmare that he just captured?

### Journal Writing

Explain a dream that you have had.

### Vocabulary:

Frobscottle: Page 64- Drink of choice for giants.

Redunculous: Page 67- The BFG's word for ridiculous.

Whizzpopping : Page 68- The BFG's term for burping.

## **Chapters 13-15: A Trogglehumper for the Fleshlumpeater, Dreams & The Great Plan**

### Questions:

1. Why do you think that the BFG decided to use the nightmare on one of the human eating giants instead of one of the children that he normally delivers dreams to?
2. The BFG labels all of his jars of dreams, why do you think that it is so important to label things when you have a lot of them?
3. If the BFG were to make a dream for you, what would you hope would happen in the dream that you would get?
4. How do you think that Sophie, being such a small human is going to ever be able to stop the huge giants from eating other people?
5. Why do you think that the BFG is unsure about the plan at first?
6. What are some of the risks that could result from the BFG following through with the plan?

### Journal Writing:

Explain a time (or make up a scenario) where you had to take some quick actions and formulate a plan to solve a problem. Was it hard to create a plan or did it come naturally for you? Did your plan go as you hoped or did it fail?

### Vocabulary:

Snozzling: Page 88- Sleeping.

Translucent: Page 101 – admitting and diffusing light so that objects beyond cannot be clearly seen

Oblong: page 101 – an elongated form

## **Chapters 16-18: Mixing the Dream, Journey to London, & The Palace**

### Questions:

1. After the dream is mixed, why do you think Sophie gets a little nervous about actually going through with the plan? (Because the dream is actually a nightmare)

2. What does Sophie forget when she gets inside the giant's ear and why does the giant scream?
3. As the BFG blows the dream into the window of the Queen's room what do you think him and Sophie are feeling? Are they nervous, excited, scared?

Journal Writing: Describe what your perfect dream would be. If you were able to mix the formula for the dream that you will have tonight, what would you like to happen?

Vocabulary:

Flushbunking: Page 125- To be in a hurry.

Zozimus: Page 128- What dreams are made of.

Illusion: Page 137- A false idea.

Boggled: Page 141- Confused about the situation.

Thermometer: Page 145- Instrument used to measure temperature.

## **Chapters 19-21: The Queen, The Royal Breakfast & The Plan**

Questions:

1. Why does the maid get so pale and flustered and drop the tray? Who sees Sophie first?
2. Why do you think that the queen looked so frightened? Have you ever had a dream that came true?
3. Do you think that the giant is going to like the breakfast that the queen has prepared, or do you think that he will not like it?
4. How do the people of the palace try to accommodate the giant? What do they use to try and make a table and chair for him?
5. Why did the cooks have to make so much food for the giants?
6. Why do you think that the queen called for the help of the army and the air force?
7. What kind of plan did the queen, the BFG, Sophie, and the army formulate?

### Journal Writing:

Under what circumstances would you hope to meet the king or queen of another country? Describe what you would say and what kind of questions you would want to ask them.

### Vocabulary:

Ingenuity: Page 162- A quality of being clever.

Marmalade: Page 173- A preserve made from citrus fruit.

Glumptions: Page 171- Glorious

## **Chapters 22-23: Capture! & Feeding Time**

### Questions:

1. How do you think that the planes are going to be able to carry the giants back to England?
2. Did the capture go as according to plan? What happened?
3. If you were trying to capture the giants what do you think would have been your biggest fear?
4. What does the BFG bring back for the giants to eat for the rest of their lives? How will they grow them in the future?
5. Why do you think that it is forbidden to feed the giants?

### Journal Writing:

If there were creatures on display at a local zoo that had been captured because they were bad, would you want to go visit the exhibit? Why? What kind of activities would you hope to see while you were visiting? How do you think they would get to the zoo?

## **BFG Vocabulary:**

Cannybull (p. 25)	Bumplehammers (p. 36)	Cattlepiddlers (p. 46)
Murderful (p. 25)	Sizzlepan (p. 36)	Butteryfly (p. 46)
Human beans (p. 25)	Frisby (p. 37)	Squelching (p. 48)
Wopsey whiffing (p. 25)	Frotsky (p. 37)	Sloshflunking (p. 48)
Scrumdiddlyumptious (p. 26)	Swultering (p. 37)	Pigwinkles (p. 48)
Uckyslush (p. 26)	Whiffswiddle (p. 37)	Icky-poo (p. 48)
Bundongle (p. 26)	Snuggly (p. 38)	Snozzcubers (p. 48)
Babblement (p. 28)	Jipping and skumping (p.38)	Winkles (p. 48)
Whooshey (p. 28)	Scrumplet (p. 38)	Squizzly scotch-hopper (p. 48)
Gobblefunk (p. 28)	Norphan (p. 38)	Humplecrimp (p. 48)
Disgustable (p. 28)	Rotrasper (p. 39)	Wraprascal (p. 48)
Snitching (p. 28)	Fizzwiggler (p. 39)	Crumpscoddle (p. 48)
Bunkumhouse (p. 31)	Horridest (p. 39)	Crumply (p. 51)
Hippodumplings (p. 31)	Kidsnatched (p. 39)	Whiffsy time-twiddlers (p. 51)
Crocadowndillies (p. 31)	Strawbunkles and cream (p. 40)	Disgusterous (p. 51)
Telly-telly bunkum box (p. 32)	Brimful (p. 40)	Maggotwise (p. 51)
Radio squeaker (p. 32)	Buzzburgers (p. 40)	Foulsome (p. 51)
Moocheling (p. 34)	Elefunt (p. 41)	Clockcoaches (p. 51)
Footcheling (p. 34)	Jumbly (p. 41)	Slimewanglers (p. 51)
Whiffing (p. 34)	Muckfrumping (p. 41)	Squiff-squiddled (p. 53)
Flungaway (p. 34)	Swigging (p. 44)	Wigglish (p. 53)
Crodscollop (p. 34)	Swizzfiggling (p. 45)	Wondercrump (p. 54)
Frumpinkin pie (p. 35)	Fibbling (p. 45)	Whoopsey-splunkers (p. 54)
Dollop (p. 35)	Natterboxes (p. 46)	Squiffing (p. 54)
Puddlenuts (p. 36)	Nightingull (p. 46)	Stutter (p. 54)

Jabbeling (p. 55)	Frogsquinkers (p. 66)	Grueful gruncious (p. 92)
Pilfflefizz (p. 55)	Buzzwangles (p. 66)	Wackcrackling (p. 92)
Bugswallop (p. 55)	Catasterous disatrophe (p. 66)	Spikesticking (p. 92)
Bottlewart (p. 57)	Redunculous (p. 67)	Griggling (p. 93)
Prunty little pogswizzler (p. 57)	Hopscotchy (p. 70)	Shivers down their spindles (p. 98)
Pibbling bottles (p. 57)	Razztwizzler (p. 70)	Langwitch (p. 98)
Dogswoggler (p. 58)	Gloriumptious (p. 70)	Quogwinkles (p. 99)
Filthing rotsome glubbage (p. 58)	Figglers (p. 71)	Dory-hunky (p. 100)
Rubbsquash (p. 58)	Jumpsy as a joghopper (p. 71)	Ringbeller (p. 103)
Rommytot (p. 59)	Quicksy (p. 71)	Tellyphone (p. 105)
Vegitibbles (p. 59)	Grobsquiffler (p. 73)	Luctuous (p. 113)
Healthsome (p. 59)	Frack to bunt (p. 73)	Mintick (p. 120)
Switchfiddling (p. 59)	Rhinostossterisses (p. 78)	Knotty plexicated (p. 125)
Wonderveg (p. 59)	Cockatootloo (p. 85)	Flussed (p. 139)
Schoolchiddlers (p. 62)	Fogglefrump (p. 85)	Your Majester (p. 168)
Frobscottle (p. 64)	Exunkly (p. 87)	Knack jife (p. 189)
Delumptious (p. 64)	Titchy little snapperwhippers (p. 88)	
Duckhound (p. 66)	In a blue baboon (p. 88)	

Reading The Hungry Thing by Jan Slepian may help students understand how some of the BFG's words were created.

### **Draw the Giants:**

BFG	Manhugger	Bloodbottler
Fleشلumpeater	Meatdripper	Butcher Boy
Childchewer	Maidmasher	
Bonecruncher	Gizzardgulper	

## Other Works by Roald Dahl:

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

*Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*

*Danny, the Champion of the World*

*The Enormous Crocodile*

*Esio Trot*

*Fantastic Mr. Fox*

*George's Marvelous Medicine*

*The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me*

*The Gremlins*

*James and the Giant Peach*

*The Magic Finger*

*Matilda*

*The Minpins*

*The Twits*

*The Vicar of Nibbleswicke*

*The Witches*

## Additional Websites:

Word Search Found At:

<http://www.abcteach.com/tmp/62cc38fbc167de496c92e076d578ec42.pdf>

Reader's Theatre:

<http://bms.westport.k12.ct.us/mccormick/rt/rtscripts/rtsbfg.htm>

Book Activities:

<http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/english/bfg.htm>

[www.3applesbookaward.org/childrens/activities/bfg.doc](http://www.3applesbookaward.org/childrens/activities/bfg.doc) - biography of Dahl, activities, and additional websites.