

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Plot Twists and Turns Creative Reading & Writing with Roald Dahl Series

Vocabulary:

Define the following key terms:

plots, problem solving, story telling, inventor, characters, rewriting, revision

Pre-Viewing Questions:

Discuss the plots of Roald Dahl's stories. Share the plots of their favorite Roald Dahl books. What makes a good story? What do you like about Roald Dahl's books?

Post-Viewing Questions:

- 1) If Roald Dahl hadn't been a writer, what would he have wanted to be? How did Roald Dahl use his creativity to solve problems in life? In what way is being an inventor like being a writer?
- 2) Where did Roald Dahl find inspiration for his stories? What places, events, and objects from Dahl's life are featured in his stories? How did people in his life influence his characters? What things in your life can you write a story about?
- 3) How did Roald Dahl develop his ideas? How are ideas like seeds? What kinds of ideas did he expand into stories? How did he record his ideas? What kinds of things did he write in his notebooks? Why is it helpful to write down ideas?
- 4) Why did Roald Dahl think all good writing was actually rewriting? How did he change his stories? What did he do when his nephew told him that he didn't like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*?
- 5) Why are twists and turns important to a good plot? How did Dahl get ideas for his plots?
- 6) According to Roald Dahl, how is writing like taking a long walk? To what would you compare the writing process?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Keep a notebook for recording ideas for stories and interesting facts.
- 2) List memorable things that have happened to you. Can you weave these events into ideas for your own stories?
- 3) Work in pairs to plan stories by drawing story maps. The story maps should show the key incidents, twists and turns of the plot.
- 4) As a classroom activity, brainstorm and vote on an idea for a story, such as a location, a character, an event, etc. Write your own short story by expanding on the class story idea.