

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

**Subject Areas:** Language Arts, English, Literature, Reading, Writing

**Synopsis:** Explores the elements of Roald Dahl's characters through interviews with the author, readings from his books, animated scenes from his plots, and captioned demonstrations of his various writing devices. Describes how Dahl gathered ideas from the world around him and how he kept notebooks to help him remember all the details. Reveals Roald Dahl's process of developing plots and characters and discusses the importance of revision.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to explain where Roald Dahl found inspiration for his plots and characters.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to discuss Dahl's method of organizing ideas.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to explain the importance of the revision process.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to describe Roald Dahl's creative process.

**Vocabulary:**

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

**Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:**

Discuss the plots of Roald Dahl's stories. Ask students to briefly 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 and Discussion:**

- 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?

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- 6) According to Roald Dahl, how is writing like taking a long walk? To what would you compare the writing process?

## **Additional Activities:**

- 1) Have students start notebooks for recording ideas for stories and interesting facts.
- 2) Ask students to list memorable things that have happened to them. How can they weave these events into ideas for their own stories?
- 3) Have students work in pairs to plan stories by drawing story maps. The story maps should show the key incidents and 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. Have students write their own short stories by expanding on the class story idea. Ask students to read their stories to the class.

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