

**PETERBOROUGH
READS**



Peterborough Reads Roald Dahl activities

**Roald Dahl themed literacy activities for your child to do at home.
Complete the activities as you go from room to room and use your
free Roald Dahl book for some inspiration.**

**PETERBOROUGH
READS**



**Peterboroughreads.org.uk
#PeterboroughReads**

With thanks to our sister campaign
Middlesbrough Reads

**MIDDLESBROUGH
READS**

© National Literacy Trust 2020

T: 020 7587 1842 W: literacytrust.org.uk Twitter: @Literacy_Trust Facebook: [nationalliteracytrust](https://www.facebook.com/nationalliteracytrust)

The National Literacy Trust is a registered charity no. 1116260 and a company limited by guarantee no. 5836486 registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in Scotland no. SC042944. Registered address: 68 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL.

Peterborough Reads

Roald Dahl challenges



PETERBOROUGH
READS



COMMUNITY
FUND



Notes for parents and carers

Why literacy is important outside of school

Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen in order to make sense of the world and communicate effectively. It includes the critical and creative literacy skills needed for the digital age, and it enables us to reach our potential and participate fully in our communities and wider society.

National Literacy Trust research shows that children with good literacy skills are more likely to perform better at school and have improved wellbeing. Children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to read above the level expected for their age.¹ Similarly, children who enjoy writing have better mental wellbeing than their peers who don't,² and writing about personal experiences can help reduce feelings of anxiety, fear, and sadness.³

Introduction to challenges

This pack includes a free Roald Dahl book to provide some inspiration for the activities. As well as encouraging independent reading, we recommend reading the book with your child as reading aloud can help boost their confidence.

¹ (30.1% vs 8.1%), National Literacy Trust (2020) [Children and young people's reading in 2019](#)

² (Mental Wellbeing Index scores of 7.65 vs 6.63 out of 10)² National Literacy Trust (2018) [Mental wellbeing, reading and writing](#)

³ Dr Matthew Lieberman, UCLA (2009) [Putting Feelings Into Words](#), published in the American Association for the Advancement of Science

We understand that learning from home during lockdown isn't ideal, and that access to a reliable internet connection is not always guaranteed. All of the activities in this pack can be done without online resources, and we've even included some additional tips and tricks too.

The activities are designed so children are able to take part regardless of whether or not they've read each of the titles. Each activity is also linked to a different room in the home, to encourage children to think creatively and get the most out of their surroundings.

This activity pack is brought to you by Peterborough Reads, a campaign from the National Literacy Trust to boost literacy levels across the city and to inspire families to read together. With thanks to our sister campaign, Middlesbrough Reads, for granting permission to use their activities for this resource.

If you have internet access on your phone please send any photos of your children completing the activities to hannah.riley@literacytrust.org.uk and like Peterborough Reads page on Facebook!

The activities

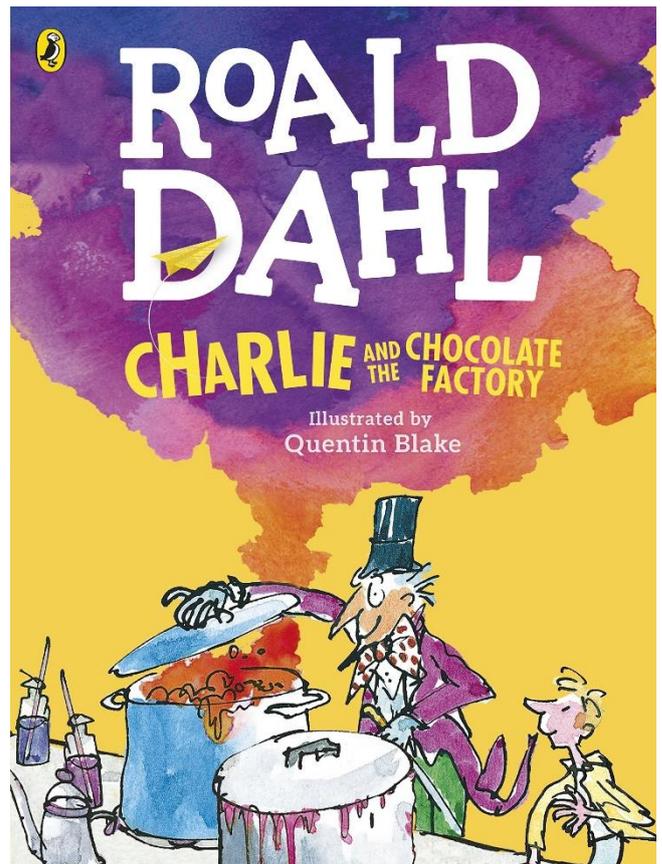
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

The first activity is inspired by *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and we're asking you to invent your own scrumdiddlyumptious treat.

What do you think is the most magical space in your home? Is there a room under the stairs, a space behind the sofa, or maybe even the garden shed? When you've thought of your special place take yourself there with some pens and paper, and then prepare yourself for something wonderful to happen.

Imagine that your secret room has transformed into a new section of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, where you will invent a magical sweet or chocolate treat good enough for Charlie Bucket himself.

Draw a comic strip showing your journey through the factory and tasting the new scrumptious treat. Remember to add some speech bubbles so the reader knows what's happening. Think about the rooms you might visit and the people you meet - you might dip your toe in the chocolate river, taste an Everlasting Gobstopper, smell the scent of warm caramel, or see an Oompa Loompa!



Top tips

- Do you have any newspapers or magazines at home? Have a flick through the pages to find some comic strips for some inspiration
- You could try and draw your comic strip in the style of Quentin Blake, who is the illustrator for all of Roald Dahl's books
- Roald Dahl's sweets had magic powers! Think about what might happen to the characters in your comic strip when they taste your sweet – will they fly, grow really tall, shrink to the size of a pea, or maybe turn invisible?! It's up to you!
- If you're nervous about drawing, you could cut out people and shapes from magazines instead

James and the Giant Peach

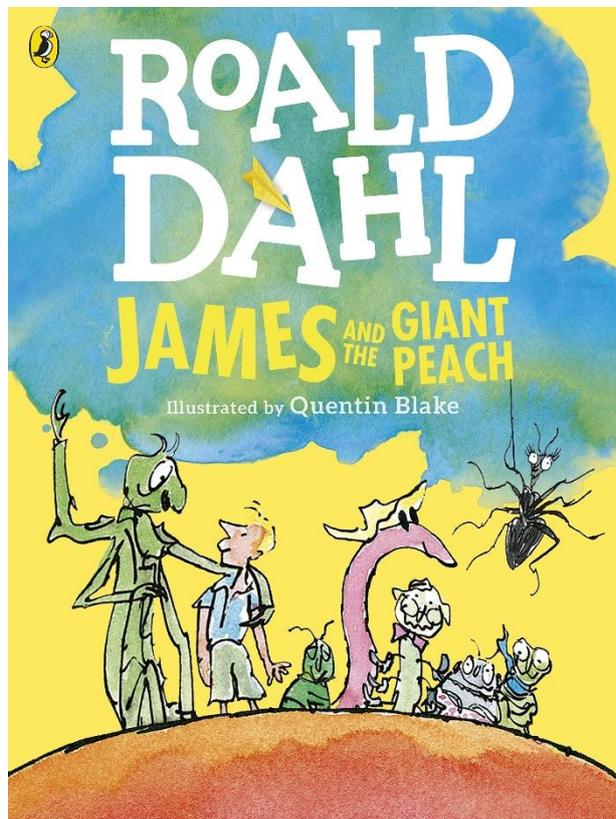
**For this activity, you've got to go outside!
Keep your eyes peeled for creepy crawlies
because they'll come in handy.**

James was an ordinary boy who went on an extraordinary journey... in a GIANT PEACH! He was joined by some giant insects who became his friends, and some seagulls who helped the peach to fly across the ocean. The giant peach finally lands on top of the Empire State building in New York and it becomes a worldwide news story!

For this activity you'll need an adult to come outside with you. Pop some shoes on that you don't mind getting muddy and get ready for your own extraordinary journey. You can complete this activity on your daily walk or you could venture out into the garden if you have one.

Once you're outside, look for three different insects that are all different in shape and size. Imagine that these critters can grow to the same size as you to become your travel buddies for your very own giant peach.

We want you to write a newspaper report about the journey you made with your new friends. Think about how your peach flies – is it with the help of seagulls or something else? Where your peach will travel – does it land in the middle of Peterborough, or somewhere far away? Try to include interviews from insects (maybe they have names!) and a witness who saw your flying peach.



Top tips:

- Take photos of the insects you find so you don't forget what they look like. Think about how their appearance might help with special skills - in the book, the glow worm uses his tail as a light!
- Have a look at the front pages of some newspapers to see how articles are structured, try and include the same features in your own article
- Use a mind map to help plan your article and get all your ideas on paper

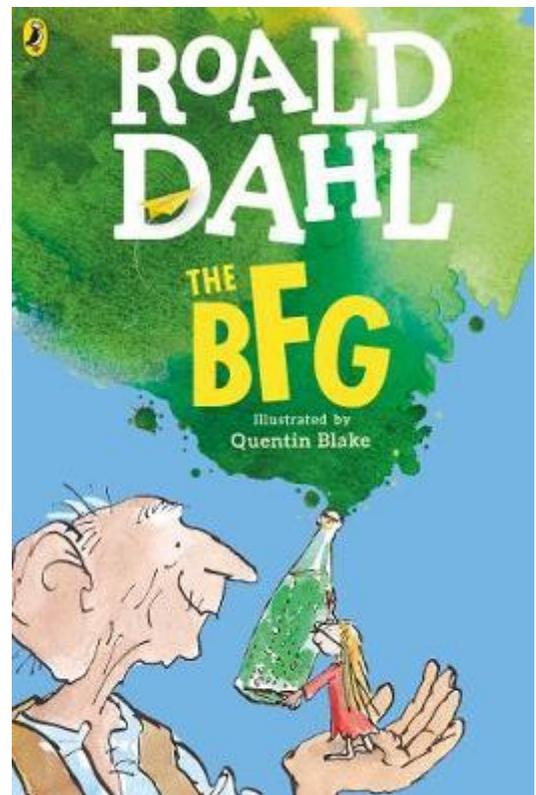
The BFG

This activity is all about dreams, so try doing it in your bedroom when you wake up in the morning.

Did you know that The BFG's job is a dream catcher? He travels from Giant Country every night with a long trumpet-shaped object and a sack to collect children's dreams. He stores them in magical jars to keep them safe.

The BFG is on the lookout for some more dreams, in Peterborough, as his stocks are low. Go to sleep with some paper and a pen or pencil nearby and scribble down your dreams when you wake up. In the morning, sit on your bed and write a diary entry about the dream you had during the night. Did anything strange happen? Did you see any of your friends?

Once you've finished, roll up your work and put it inside a dream jar. You could even decorate it! Leave it by your bedroom window for the BFG to collect on his travels.



Top tips

- If you didn't dream, you can write about your best dream ever instead, or maybe even a dream that you would like to come true
- You can use an old jam jar (or something similar) to put your dream inside of, but make sure you wash it first!

- For the decorations, use things that you already have in your home. Ask a grownup if you can use some recycling, magazines, or bits of card. You could also stain your diary entry using a tea bag and some water to make it look old

George's Marvellous Medicine

This activity is designed for your kitchen. Sit at the table with your thinking caps on and get ready for some wacky recipes.

George's Marvellous Medicine is about a boy who discovers he can make magical potions to replace his Grandma's medicines. George's Grandma is mean and grumpy, and when his parents aren't looking she bullies him. One day, George decides to swap her real medicine for something a bit more homemade but when she swallows it, Grandma grows as tall as a house!

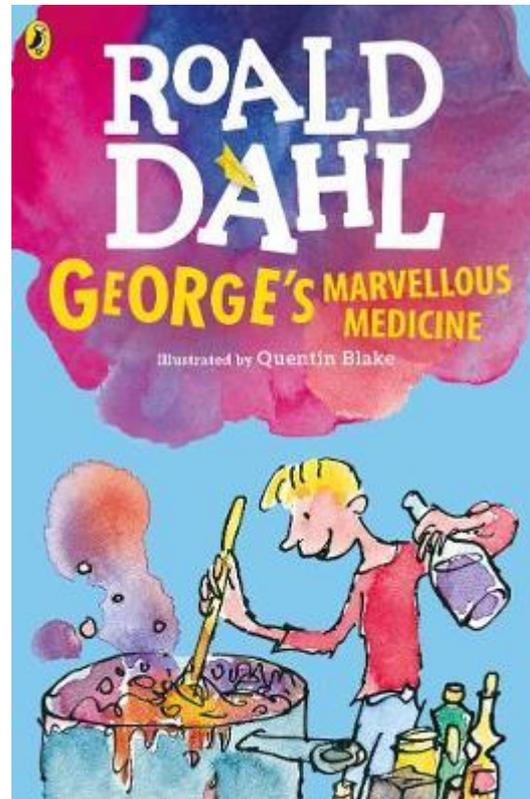
For this activity, we want you write your very own recipe for a marvellous medicine along with a description of what happens when you swallow it.

For the recipe, try to include at least seven ingredients, and they can be as random as you like. In the book, George uses things like floor polish, deodorant, and brown paint! Remember to include step-by-step instructions so George won't forget what to do.

For your magical description, try to think about tastes, smells, and appearance (is your medicine lumpy or smooth?) as well as any visible transformations like changes in your size, colour, or maybe you turn into something non-human!

Top tips

- If you're struggling for ingredient ideas, aim to choose one item from every room of your home – and remember, they don't all have to be edible!
- Have a look for any tins, jars, or packets of food in your home and read the ingredients. Some will also have cooking instructions which you can use to help your writing
- If you're feeling adventurous, ask an adult to help make your recipe in real life. Be careful though, because this isn't ordinary cooking so your potion won't be edible!



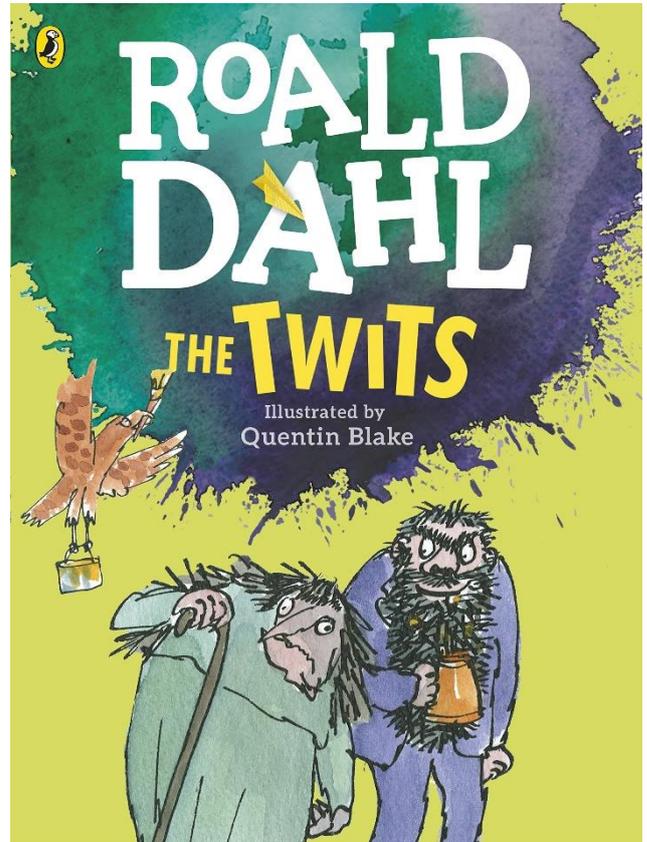
The Twits

It's time for the final activity! This one is inspired by a book called *The Twits* and is themed on the bathroom.

The Twits is a book about a man and wife called Mr. & Mrs. Twit. They are both hideous, very mean, and are also smelly. They live in a brick house with no windows, and they have bits of food and insects in their hair because they refuse to wash. As well as being mean to each other, Mr. & Mrs. Twit are also mean to animals – especially monkeys.

It's time to give *The Twits* a makeover! Go into your bathroom and look at your shampoos. Pick your favourite based on the smell and then imagine you have used this to give Mr. & Mrs. Twit an overdue clean.

Write a character profile based on your new version of *The Twits*. Instead of being mean and dirty, they become clean and learn how to treat each other properly. Include descriptions of what Mr. & Mrs Twit look like now and list other details including favourite hobbies, likes and dislikes, and maybe you've even taught them how to be polite.



Top tips

- Use adjectives (describing words) and similes to help describe Mr & Mrs Twit
- Make a 'before & after' description and drawings of *The Twits*. Try to think of 'opposite' words to help with your transformations
- Read the labels on your shampoo and try to use some of the same words in your character profiles
- Try to include at least one description for each of the five senses; sight, touch, taste, smell, and sound

