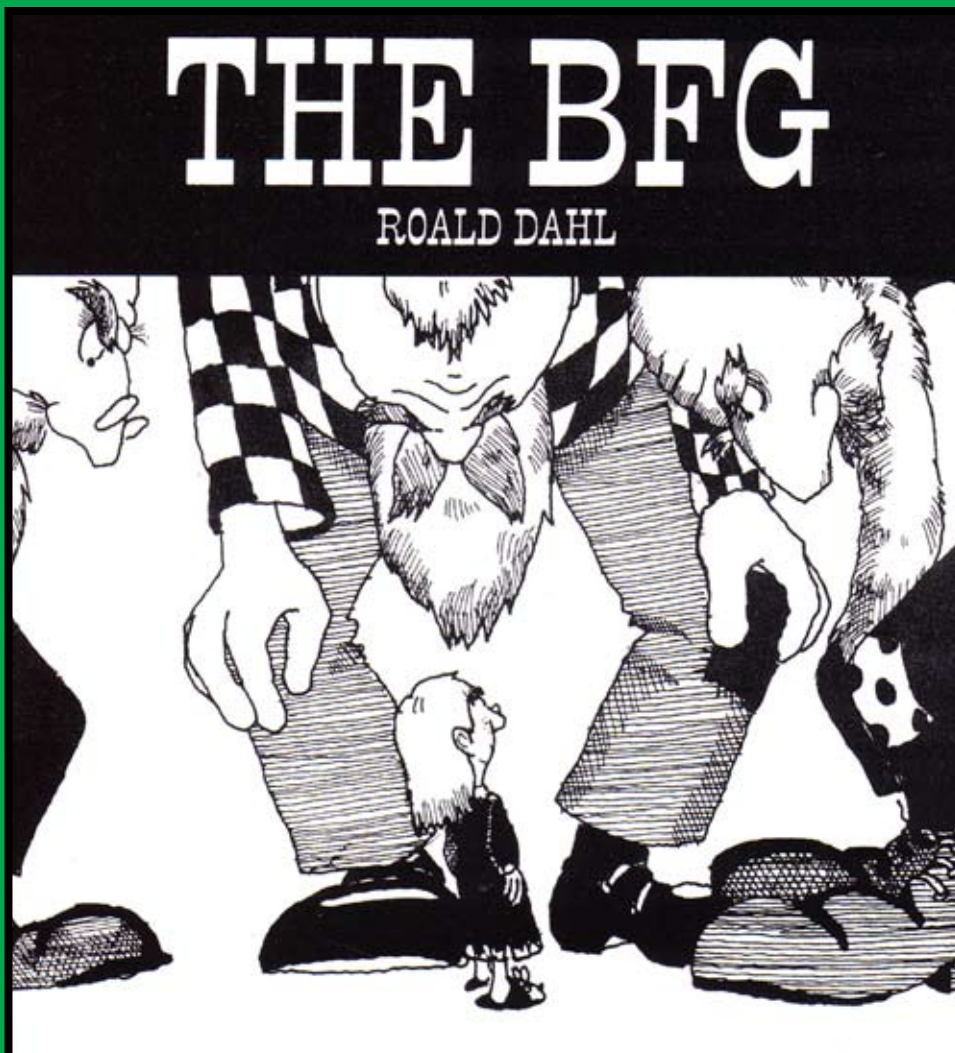


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the book *The BFG* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think the book will be about? Have you read any other books by the author Roald Dahl? What do you think the letters BFG stand for? Do you think this will be a serious or a humorous book?
2. A fantasy is a story in which impossible things happen or exist. For example, animals or monsters might use human language and have human personalities. A fantasy story often includes elements of reality to make it seem more believable. Read the chapter titles for *The BFG*. What clues signal that the book may be a fantasy?
3. Have you ever been disturbed by bad dreams? Have you ever worried that something terrible might happen while you are in your bed in the middle of the night? What do you think are the best ways to ease these fears? Can parents or siblings help?
4. Do you think of a giant as a friendly or scary creature? Is a giant real or make-believe? Read aloud and discuss the following fairy tales with your classmates.
 - Jack and the Beanstalk
 - Beauty and the Beast

How does each giant look? How does each giant behave? Is each giant basically good or evil? Describe any other giants you have read about.

5. Do some research to find out how orphaned children are cared for in your community and state. What kind of life might these children live before they are adopted? At the beginning of *The BFG*, a little girl is introduced who is living in an orphanage. An orphanage is a public home for children whose parents have died. As you read the book, compare the life of the little girl in the story to the way an orphaned child might really live today.
6. **Social Studies Connection:** On a world map or globe, locate London, the capital city of England. Do some research to find out about the official duties of Queen Elizabeth II of England. Learn where the Queen lives while she is in London.
7. Dreams seem very real to some people. What interesting dream or nightmare do you remember best? What happened in your dream? Draw a picture of an event that happened in your dream.

The Witching Hour; Who?; The Snatch (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Where do you think Sophie is living as the story opens?
2. Why do you think the Giant snatches Sophie?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Simile*—A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

The moonbeam was like a silver blade slicing through the room
on to her face.

What is being compared?

What is the effect of this comparison?

- II. *Cliffhanger*—A cliffhanger is a literary device borrowed from serialized, silent films in which a chapter ends at a suspenseful moment to encourage the reader to continue reading.

What is the cliffhanger at the end of the chapter “The Snatch”?

Writing Activity:

Write about a time when you, like Sophie, had an unusual experience during the “witching hour.” Or invent a story that takes place in the middle of the night when magical things may occur.