

Characters, Metaphors & Similes **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. Explains how Dahl created interesting characters through the use of exaggeration, metaphors, and similes. Also explores the characteristics of the "good" and "evil" figures in his children's books and introduces the man who inspired the Big Friendly Giant in the BFG.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to explain how Roald Dahl used exaggeration, metaphors and similes to describe his characters
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to identify common characteristics of Dahl's "good" and "evil" characters
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to discuss the common theme of good vs. evil found in Roald Dahl's books
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to describe Roald Dahl's work environment and creative process
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to explain where Roald Dahl found inspiration for his characters

Vocabulary

comparisons, exaggeration, hyperbole, characters, metaphors, similes, hero, heroine

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) Hold a class discussion about the characters in Roald Dahl's books. Who is your favorite Roald Dahl character? What do you like about this character? Describe the character's physical appearance, personality, etc. This activity can be expanded to include characters in books by different authors.
- 2) Review similes and metaphors. Display several pictures for the class. Have students write similes and metaphors to describe the people in the pictures.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Where did Roald Dahl write his books? What materials did Dahl use to write? When did he write? Describe Roald Dahl's working environment. Under what conditions do you work best? Where do you like to do your homework?
- 2) What kinds of characters are found in all of Roald Dahl's books? Give some examples of his "evil" characters. What do all of his "evil" characters have in common? Give some examples of his "good" characters. What do all of his "good" characters have in common? Why is it

New Dimension Media

important to have both “evil” and “good” characters? Can you think of any books that have only “evil” characters? Can you think of any books that have only “good” characters?

- 3) How did Roald Dahl make his characters interesting? How can you exaggerate a character’s appearance? How can you exaggerate a character’s personality?
- 4) How did Roald Dahl come up with his characters? Who inspired the Big Friendly Giant in the BFG? What traits of this man did Dahl exaggerate when he wrote the BFG?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have each student create a character and write a descriptive paragraph introducing the character. Students should consider the character’s appearance, actions, speech, and voice along with how others view them and how they treat others. You may want to bring some pictures or magazines to class for inspiration. Once students have completed their paragraphs, have them trade papers with a partner. Each student should read his or her partner’s description and draw a picture of the character. Display the descriptions and illustrations together in class.
- 2) As a classroom activity, compare several characters of Roald Dahl’s books. You may choose to compare “good” or “evil” characters. Discuss each character’s appearance, actions, speech, and voice. What makes each character special?

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA

A QUESTAR COMPANY

w w w . n d m q u e s t a r . c o m

680 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611

800.288.4456