

The Greatest Children's Author

Roald Dahl is the greatest children's author in the world. We know this because he has written so many children's books during his lifetime. In total, he has written 20 books for children. It doesn't stop there **either**; he has written **countless** short stories and books for adults too. This shows he was brilliant at what he did – writing books!

Roald Dahl is known to be the best children's author because he has won so many awards. In 2013, Dahl came top of a **survey** by a book selling **company**. He beat authors such as *J.K. Rowling*, *Enid Blyton* and *Beatrix Potter*. In the poll, Dahl was voted as the top author chosen by children (he gained 51% of their votes). He also secured 47% of the adult votes and won top author voted by adults too. This could possibly be because the adults had read Dahl's books when they were children too!

Everyone knows that Dahl has won countless awards throughout his lifetime, and beyond, for his writing. He won four awards across the world in 1983 alone, mainly for his **novel** *The Witches*. Some of the most **prestigious** awards he has achieved include the New York Times Outstanding Books Award and the Whitbread Award. I bet you didn't know that!

Dahl is **renowned** as the best children's author because his novels are so popular. The most well-liked books include *Matilda*, *Fantastic Mr Fox* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. We all know his books are popular because many of them have been made into films and plays, which are all still loved today. Have you seen *The BFG* at the cinema? Many of his books have been **translated** into different languages too; now children across the world can enjoy his stories. He is not only popular in the UK, but across the world also. **Surely** you would agree that that would take some beating to be the best children's author!

The fact that there is a museum all about Roald Dahl and his books in Buckinghamshire where he lived as an adult, also **proves** that he is a much-loved author. There you can see his **original** ideas and sketches based around the novels he wrote. Furthermore, you can even see where he wrote his books by visiting the reading room inside his house. It is well worth a visit!

Having read all of the **evidence**, there is no doubt you would agree that Roald Dahl is the best children's author the world has seen. He has written so many books in his lifetime, has won a number of awards and is still voted the most loved children's author today by children! I am sure that you are as big a fan as I am!

How many children's books has Roald Dahl written?

What do we know about children and reading today?

What does the writer want to persuade you to think?

'Have you seen The BFG at the cinema?'

a) What is the author trying to do in this sentence?

b) How effective do you think it is?

What can you tell about the viewpoint of the author?

Read the information about the book survey. How does the author show you that it is fact that Dahl is one of the best children's authors?

Write down three things that we learn about Roald Dahl in the text.

Why is the text arranged in paragraphs? How does this help the reader?

Find and copy a direct quote from the text that shows that the author loved to read Roald Dahl books.

Use the text to find a piece of information that the rest of the class may not know.

The text is used to persuade the reader to agree that Dahl is the best children's author.

a) Find and copy 3 words or phrases that are used to persuade the reader?

b) Do you agree with the author? Explain your answer.

Read this sentence. 'The most well-liked books include *Matilda*, *Fantastic Mr Fox* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.' Why have italics been used in the sentence?

The Greatest Children's Author – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

either _____

countless _____

survey _____

company _____

novel _____

prestigious _____

renowned _____

translated _____

surely _____

proves _____

original _____

evidence _____

Task A

Rewrite the following sentences using a synonym for the highlighted word in each case. Make sure you use a different word each time.

Some of the most **prestigious** awards he has achieved include the New York Times Outstanding Books Award and the Whitbread Award.

It doesn't stop there either, as he has written **countless** short stories and books for adults too.

Dahl is **renowned** as the best children's author because his novels are so popular.

Task B

Choose the correct word from the box below to fit in the following sentences.

_____ you would agree that that would take some beating to be the best children's author!

Many of his books have been _____ into different languages too so that children across the world can read his stories.

Having read all of the _____, there is no doubt you would agree that Roald Dahl is the best children's author the world has seen.

There you can see his _____ ideas and sketches based around the novels he wrote.

The fact that there is a museum all about Roald Dahl and his books in Buckinghamshire where he lived as an adult _____ that he is a much loved author.

In 1983 he won four awards alone across the world, mainly for his _____ *The Witches*.

evidence

translated

original

proves

surely

novel

Verbs

For each verb in the box, write the infinitive form.

<u>Verbs</u>	<u>Infinitive Form</u>
am, is, was	
ate, eats	
went, gone	
wrote, written	

Punctuation and Capital Letters

Which sentence below must end in a question mark? Tick the right one.

- Roald Dahl is a famous author
- He has written countless books
- He has won many awards
- Do you like Roald Dahl books

Rewrite this sentence putting in capital letters where they are needed.

roald was a famous author who lived in buckinghamshire.

The Greatest Children's Author – Oral Teacher Questions

How many children's books has Roald Dahl written? **20 although he has written many plays, short stories and adult books too.**

What do we know about children and reading today? **Children still love to read Dahl books. He is still popular across the world.**

What does the writer want to persuade you to think? **To agree that he must be the best children's author there has ever been.**

'Have you seen The BFG at the cinema?'

a) What is the author trying to do by asking this question? **The author is assuming that the reader will have seen this film and enjoyed it. He is using this to persuade the reader to agree that Roald Dahl is the best children's author.**

b) How effective do you think it is? **Personal response – hopefully children will think that they can relate to the author because they have seen or heard of the film adaptation mentioned.**

What can you tell about the viewpoint of the author? **The author believes that Roald Dahl is the best author and uses evidence to back their ideas.**

Read the information about the book survey. How does the author show you that it is fact that Dahl is one of the best children's authors? **By using percentages from a recent survey to reinforce what they are saying.**

Write down three things that we learn about Roald Dahl in the text. **Personal response. There is a range of answers to this question about the success of Dahl as an author.**

Why is the text organised into paragraphs? How does this help the reader? **Easier for the reader to read. It breaks up the writing and groups similar information together.**

Find and copy a direct quote from the text that shows that the author loved to read Roald Dahl books. **"I am sure that you are as big a fan as I am!"**

Use the text to find a piece of information that the rest of the class may not know.

Personal response – hopefully the children will think that there is information in the text that the children do not already know.

The text is used to persuade the reader to agree that Dahl is the best children's author.

a) Find and copy 3 words or phrases that are used to persuade the reader? **Roald Dahl is the greatest children's author... We know this... We all know that... The fact that... Etc. There are many answers for this question. Hopefully the children will give many examples located in the text.**

b) Do you agree with the author? Explain your answer. **Personal response – the children may agree or disagree but must explain their answers.**

Read this sentence. 'The most well-liked books include *Matilda*, *Fantastic Mr Fox* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.' Why have italics been used in the sentence? **The italics are used for the name of his novels. They are used to stand out in the text.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

either – used to link two similar statements together

countless – too many to be counted

survey – investigate the opinions of a group of people by asking them all the same question/questions

company – a business

novel – a story book that is usually fairly long in length

prestigious – highly thought of

renowned – to be known or talked about by many people, famous

translated – converted or changed into another language

surely – used to show that someone is confident or has firm belief in what they are saying

proves – demonstrate the truth by argument

original – first

evidence – information that proves something to be true

Task A

Rewrite the following sentences using a synonym for the highlighted word in each case. Make sure you use a different word each time.

Some of the most **prestigious** awards he has achieved include the New York Times Outstanding Books Award and the Whitbread Award.

Some of the most **distinguished/famous/reputable** awards he achieved included the New York Times Outstanding Books Award and the Whitbread Award.

It doesn't stop there either, as he has written **countless** short stories and books for adults too.

It doesn't stop there either, as he has written **numerous/lots of/many** short stories and books for adults too.

Dahl is **renowned** as the best children's author because his novels are so popular.

Dahl is **celebrated/known as/acclaimed/prominent** as the best children's author because his novels are so popular.

Task B

Choose the correct word from the box below to fit in the following sentences.

Surely you would agree that that would take some beating to be the best children's author!

Many of his books have been **translated** into different languages too so that children across the world can read his stories.

Having read all of the **evidence**, there is no doubt you would agree that Roald Dahl is the best children's author the world has seen.

There you can see his **original** ideas and sketches based around the novels he wrote.

The fact that there is a museum all about Roald Dahl and his books in Buckinghamshire where he lived as an adult **proves** that he is a much loved author.

In 1983 he won four awards alone across the world, mainly for his **novel** *The Witches*.

evidence

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Roald was a famous author who lived in **B**uckinghamshire.