



GAIETY SCHOOL  
OF ACTING

Youth Theatre: *At Home*

# ROALD DAHL



## Drama and Creative Resources for Ages 4-12

The following resources can be used by children on their own above 8 years old\*, or led by parents. Some of the tasks, such as writing will be difficult for younger children, but they can definitely get involved in performing! These resources will be even more enjoyable if you read some of Roald Dahl's books - we recommend Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and, for some shorter books The Twits and Esio Trot. There are also lots of fantastic films made based on Roald Dahl's work, such as The Witches, Fantastic Mr Fox and The BFG.

\*For elements that require adult guidance we will let you know.

*Have fun, be safe, and we look forward to seeing you back at GSA very soon.*

***CONTENTS: DRAMA GAMES, IMPROVISATION EXERCISE, MAKE YOUR OWN PLAY, COLOURING SHEET, SCIENCE EXPERIEMENTS***

# DRAMA GAMES

It's important to warm up before every drama class or performance. These exercises are fun, will get you moving when the playgrounds are closed, and are great for ALL ages! As much as possible, furniture should be pushed back to the sides of the room. This is to avoid any accidents. Ask a parent first!

## PEEL BANANAS

Everyone start with their hands above their heads - pointed straight up and palms together. Imagine you are shaped like a banana!

Now everyone together, chant the following song, while doing the attached action.

Peel bananas, peel peel banana (imagining your arms are the peel of the banana, slowly move them down the sides of your body)

Chop banana, chop chop banana (jumping from side to side, act like your arms are the knives)

Mash banana, mash mash banana (jumping from side to side, act as though you are mashing banana under your feet!)

## TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Choose a leader - everyone circulate in the room and when the leader calls out the following instructions do the below actions.

Stop - Freeze on the spot

Go - Move around the room

Wall - Find a place on the wall to touch

Ceiling - Reach up as high as you can

Floor - Find a place on the floor to touch

Clap - Clap your hands

Click - Click your fingers

Clump - Everyone clump together in a bunch



After a bit of the practice the leader should try and catch people out, calling the directions out quicker and quicker.

## THE BEAR AND THE WOODCUTTER

One person is chosen to be the bear and the rest will be woodcutters.

The bear steps outside the room and gets ready to let a huge roar!

The woodcutters are to pretend to chop wood in the forest.

When the bear enters the room with a roar, the woodcutters must all fall to the ground and stay as still as possible. The bear must sneak up and investigate the woodcutters for any movement.

# IMPROVISATION

## CHARLIE AND THE TRIP TO THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

This drama game is a chance to mix up all the characters from Roald Dahl's book and is a great game for using your imagination, testing your acting skills and having fun! This game can be played lots of times as there are loads of characters to choose from - take turns playing Charlie.



1. Choose one person to play the part of Charlie Bucket. Charlie has just found his golden ticket and is waiting at the entrance of the Chocolate Factory for the rest of the competition winners to arrive. When the rest of the competition winners arrive it is Charlie's job to guess who they are, by asking them questions about themselves and looking carefully about how they walk and talk and listening to any clues they might give!

2. In secret, the rest of you should think up a Roald Dahl character that you can play the part of. Maybe you are The Grand High Witch or Mr Twit or maybe The Enormous Crocodile? Have a think about how you are going to act out this part. Make sure you do NOT give away your character by saying your name!

- How do you walk?
- What voice do you use?
- Is there anything you could say about yourself that might give Charlie a clue?

## CHARACTERS

In case you need inspiration, here's some characters you can choose from!

Augustus Gloop - Willy Wonka

Bruce Bogtrotter - Willy Wonka

Lavender - Matilda

Matilda Wormwood

Sophie - The BFG

Violet Beauregarde - Willy Wonka

Amanda Thripp - Matilda

Danny - Danny the Champion of the World

Mike Teavee - Willy Wonka

Veruca Salt - Willy Wonka

Grandma Georgina - Willy Wonka

Grandma Josephine - Willy Wonka

Aunt Spiker - James and the Giant Peach

Miss Trunchbull - Matilda

Mrs Twit - The Twits

Grandpa George - Willy Wonka

Grandpa Joe - Willy Wonka

Mr Wormwood - Matilda

The Queen of England - The BFG

Aunt Sponge - James and the Giant Peach

George Kranky - George's Marvellous Medicine

James Henry Trotter - James & the Giant Peach

Miss Honey - Matilda

# MAKE YOUR OWN PLAY!

What you need: Pen, paper, props, costumes

## WRITING THE PLAY

We will give you an idea for your play, but it's up to YOU to write the script! You can take it in turns to write scenes. We will start each scene for you with a short introduction by a narrator and then you can write the dialogue - dialogue is what actors say to each other on stage.

## MATILDA'S MAGIC TO THE RESCUE

Characters: You decide! Don't forget, one actor can play many roles - this is called "multi-roling". There are also one-woman or one-man shows.

## SETTING: CRUNCHEM HALL

### SCENE 1:

Narrator: It was the week before the talent show at Crunchem Hall and all of Matilda's class were very nervous. They had heard from the older children that if Miss Trunchbull didn't like your performance, she put you in the chokey - that was the tiny scary cupboard were all sorts of horrible pointy things stuck in you. Rumours had it that Miss Trunchbull sometimes stuck kids in there for DAYS. Matilda and her classmates knew they had to come up with some extra special performances.

### SCENE 2:

Narrator: All the children had now chosen their performances but needed to rehearse - they decided to ask Miss Honey for help them perfect their performances.

### SCENE 3:

Narrator: It was the day of the show and everyone was very nervous. Lavender was the first to perform - she stepped out on the stage, but she had forgotten a very important part of her performance! She started to sweat with fear. Miss Trunchbull stared with her beady eyes from the front row...Matilda knew she had to act!

### SCENE 4:

Narrator: All the children cheered as Miss Trunchbull looked angrier and angrier - she really thought that Lavender would be going into the chokey and there was nothing she loved more than sending kids to the chokey. Her whole face went red and she stormed out of the hall!

### SCENE 5:

Narrator: Miss Honey took to the stage and decided that they should all continue the show.

Once you've finished your script, make sure you colour in your poster. Then choose who will play each character and start rehearsing!

# MAKE YOUR OWN PLAY!

## EXAMPLE

See below how you can put your script together. Use your imagination and choose your characters and what they say to each other.

### SCENE 1

NARRATOR: It was the week before the talent show at Crunchem Hall and all of Matilda's class were very nervous. They had heard from the older children that if Miss Trunchbull didn't like your performance, she put you in the chokey - that was the tiny scary cupboard were all sorts of horrible pointy things stuck in you. Rumours had it that Miss Trunchbull sometimes stuck kids in there for DAYS. Matilda and her classmates knew they had to come up with some extra special performances.

Lavender: For the talent show, I am going to perform a magic act.

Matilda: I am going to read a poem by one of my favourite writers: William Shakespeare.

Lavender: One thing is for sure, we better be good!

\_\_\_\_\_ Productions  
Presents

# Matilda's Magic to the Rescue

DATE:

TIME:

PLACE:

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!



## SET, COSTUMES, LIGHT & SOUND

Set and costume is a great area to get creative in! Look around you - what can you use from your bedroom, kitchen or living room (make sure to ask your parents before moving or taking anything.) Here are some simple household items and what they can double up as!

Wooden spoon: Magic wand, paintbrush

Toilet Roll inside: Telescope

Saucepan: Hat

Chairs: Car, airplane, train

Books: Can be used as building blocks for set (be careful not to damage them!)

Bedsheet: Can be used for all sorts of costumes

Maybe you can use lamps to create different lighting for your show - DEFINITELY ASK YOUR PARENTS BEFORE MOVING ANY LIGHTS! CHILDREN SHOULD NEVER MESS AROUND WITH ELECTRICITY.

You can always look up fun sound effects on the internet, however you can create banging noises with a saucepan, rustling with a newspaper and lots of noises using your own voice! Be creative!

# LET'S GET SCIENTIFIC

## JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH - MAKE YOUR OWN WORMERY

Roald Dahl loves worms whether it's the Twits eating worm spaghetti or Mr Earthworm who is friends with James in his Giant Peach so how about making your own wormery and get to learn all about these fascinating creatures

**\*\* PARENTAL GUIDANCE IS RECOMMENDED HERE! \*\***

### What you need:

An old jar - plastic would be the best.  
Sand  
Soil  
Gravel  
Old leaves  
Water  
Grass clippings  
Leaves  
Worms

### How to:

1. Add a layer of gravel or small stone to the bottom of the jar - this is to help with drainage.
2. Add the soil and sand in layers (one on top of each other)
3. Drop a small amount of water onto the surface - Careful not to add too much
4. Find some worms and gently put them on top of the soil
5. Add the leaves and grass clippings to the top
6. Make some holes in the lids (An adult will need to help here)
7. Screw the lid on the jar

**Hint:** Keep the wormery out of direct sunlight

Now sit back and watch what happens!

**Fun Fact** - You will be able to see what worms do in the garden, they help carry decaying material into the soil, where it is broken down by microorganisms, into nutrients that can be used by plants to grow.



## PROP MAKERS WANTED!

Theatre makers need props to put on their shows so lets become prop makers and create our very own dream jars for a production of Roald Dahls the BFG

### WHAT ARE DREAM JARS?

The BFG uses jars to carry the dreams he shares with children around the world. He has shelves and shelves filled with these amazing glowing, moving, fascinating wisps of imagination.

### What you need:

Jars  
Cotton  
Acrylic paint - two different colours  
Glitter  
2 Bowls

### How to:

1. Make sure your jars are clean before you start
2. Fill your bowls with water
3. Drop your paint into the bowls until you get the colour you like
4. Add as much glitter as you like into the bowls
5. Don't forget to stir the bowls
6. Fill your jar with cotton wool about a third of the way
7. Pour your paint onto the cotton wool
8. Put a new layer of cotton wool on top and pour the 2nd colour on top
9. Keep layering until you fill the jar



**Hint:** Add twine and tags to make it look more like one of the BFG's dream jars

We hope you enjoyed your Roald Dahl fun! We'd love to see photos of your performances and science experiments - you can tag us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @GaietySchool or email [marketing@gaietySchool.com](mailto:marketing@gaietySchool.com).

You can find out all about our Young Gaiety classes and Summer Camps at [gaietySchool.com](http://gaietySchool.com)

