

PUFFIN BOOKS PRESENTS


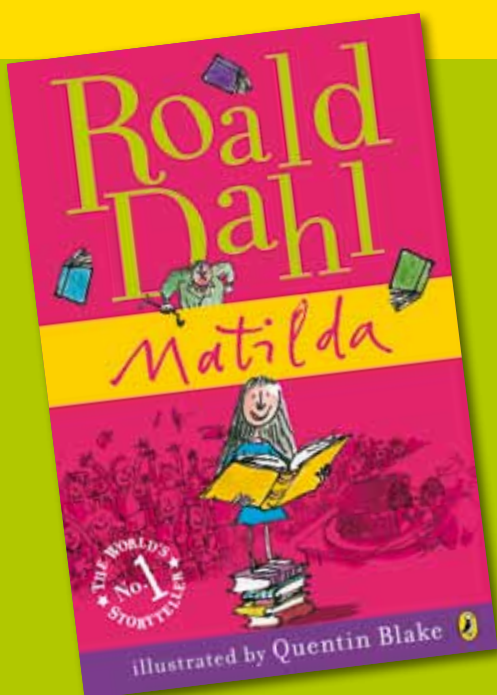
The Roald Dahl



Matilda

ASSEMBLY PACK

The Mission: for everyone to read *Matilda* between Roald Dahl Day – 13 September – and the opening of the RSC's *Matilda: A Musical* on 9 November. Here's how your school can get involved.



'What d'you want a flaming book for? We've got a lovely telly with a twelve-inch screen and now you come asking for a book!'

From *Matilda*

THE WORLD'S
No. 1
STORYTELLER



Welcome to the *Matilda* ASSEMBLY PACK!



Dear Teacher

Puffin Books is delighted to present this pack of resources to help you put on an engaging and educational assembly around Roald Dahl's classic children's book, *Matilda*.

We've produced this pack to celebrate two big events:

- 1 It's **Roald Dahl Day** on 13 September, the worldwide celebration of the author's birthday – but you can celebrate the World's No. 1 Storyteller any time throughout September
- 2 **Matilda, A Musical** opens at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, running from 9 November 2010 – 30 January 2011

These occasions make this the ideal time to celebrate the wonderful world of Roald Dahl and his characters! And with its promotion of the joys of reading and positive messages for children who are unhappy at home or school, *Matilda* is the perfect book to promote and discuss. Plus, of course, it's a hugely entertaining story that has enthralled millions of children, written with all of Roald Dahl's trademark humour and empathy.

To get you started on a great *Matilda*-themed assembly, you will find in this pack:

- A plan for a 20-minute assembly session
- A short extract from *Matilda* that can be dramatised by children
- A quiz to test children's knowledge of the extract and the book
- Ideas for discussions around some of the key themes of *Matilda*
- A handout for you to photocopy which gives children ideas for further Roald Dahl reading and activities

We hope you will be able to use this pack to produce a great assembly and instil in your children some of *Matilda*'s incredible passion for reading!

With best wishes from everyone at Puffin Books

For lots more Roald Dahl resources and ideas to help you plan activities around **Roald Dahl Day**, visit the official website at www.roalddahl.com.

For further information and to book tickets for **Matilda, A Musical**, including details of schools workshops, teachers' courses and special discounts for group bookings, visit www.matildamusical.com.



STAGING A

Matilda

ASSEMBLY



ASSEMBLY AIMS

To celebrate books and Roald Dahl; to promote reading as a positive and pleasurable activity; to discuss ways of helping children deal with bullying and problems at home.

YEAR GROUPS

Matilda has been read and loved by children – and adults! – of all ages. But this assembly is best suited to older primary school children – years 3 to 6 – and younger secondary school children – years 7 to 8. The content here is designed with those ages in mind, but can be adjusted to suit a wide range of year groups and abilities.

KEY SUBJECTS

English and cross-curricular PSHE.

TIMING

The ideal day for a *Matilda*-themed assembly is Monday 13th September – Roald Dahl Day! But every day is Roald Dahl Day so it could be run earlier in the month to whet their appetite; or later, when they have finished the story.

SCHEDULE

Here is a suggested minute-by-minute schedule for a 20-minute assembly. Reduce the quiz or discussions for a shorter assembly, or extend them for a longer one.

0–3 mins	Introduce <i>Matilda</i> and its storyline. Ask how many children have read it. Explain a little about Roald Dahl and Roald Dahl Day
4–5 mins	Introduce the <i>Matilda</i> extract and the children performing it
6–10 mins	Reading of the <i>Matilda</i> extract
11–14 mins	Quick <i>Matilda</i> Quiz
15–20 mins	Discussions around books or bullying
End	Distribute handouts to children as they leave



Recommended resources

Book: *Matilda* by Roald Dahl (Puffin Books)

Website for more material: www.roalddahl.com



DRAMATISING

Matilda

With its straightforward sentences, sense of fun, cast of wonderful characters, delightful wordplay and bags of humour, Roald Dahl's writing is perfect for reading aloud. Bring *Matilda* to life by inviting four children to perform this edited extract from the first chapter of the book during the assembly.

You'll need to allocate parts to **Matilda**, **Mr Wormwood**, **Mrs Phelps** and the **narrator**. The children can read from photocopies of the enclosed sheet or their copies of the book, but you might like to ask them to practice their reading in advance, and perhaps gather them together for a brief rehearsal before the assembly. Don't expect too much if you are working with a younger primary group, but older children or secondary school groups might be able to develop suitable voices and create their own versions of Roald Dahl's characters in their readings. The narrator will probably be the most confident reader of the four as he or she has the most text to read. The extract should take four or five minutes to perform.

Make sure all the children are introduced as they get up to perform their parts, and set the scene by explaining that this extract comes from the start of the book, and illustrates Matilda's love of books and her problems at home. Ask the rest of the children to pay close attention as there will be a quiz on what they've just heard afterwards! And when the children have finished reading, lead a round of applause for them.



Matilda



Mr Wormwood



Mrs Phelps

‘The Reader of Books’

from

Matilda



Matilda Daddy, do you think you could buy me a book?

Mr Wormwood A book? What d’you want a flaming book for?

Matilda To read, Daddy.

Mr Wormwood What’s wrong with the telly, for heaven’s sake? We’ve got a lovely telly with a twelve-inch screen and now you come asking for a book! You’re getting spoiled, my girl!



Mr Wormwood

Matilda

Narrator Nearly every afternoon Matilda was left alone in the house. Her brother (five years older than her) went to school. Her father went to work and her mother went out playing bingo in a town eight miles away. Mrs Wormwood was hooked on bingo and played it five afternoons a week. On the afternoon of the day when her father had refused to buy her a book, Matilda set out all by herself to walk to the public library in the village. When she arrived, she introduced herself to the librarian, Mrs Phelps. She asked if she might sit awhile and read a book. Mrs Phelps, slightly taken aback at the arrival of such a tiny girl unaccompanied by a parent, nevertheless told her she was very welcome.

Matilda Where are the children’s books please?

Mrs Phelps They’re over there on those lower shelves. Would you like me to help you find a nice one with lots of pictures in it?

Matilda No, thank you. I’m sure I can manage.

Narrator From then on, every afternoon, as soon as her mother had left for bingo, Matilda would toddle down to the library. The walk took only ten minutes and this allowed her two glorious hours sitting quietly by herself in a cosy corner devouring one book after another. When she had read every single children’s book in the place, she started wandering round in search of something else. Mrs Phelps, who had been watching her with fascination for the past few weeks, now got up from her desk and went over to her.



Mrs Phelps

Mrs Phelps Can I help you, Matilda?

Matilda I’m wondering what to read next. I’ve finished all the children’s books.

Mrs Phelps You mean you’ve looked at the pictures?

Matilda Yes, but I’ve read the books as well. I thought some were very poor, but others were lovely. I liked *The Secret Garden* best of all. It was full of mystery. The mystery of the room behind the closed door and the mystery of the garden behind the big wall.

Mrs Phelps Exactly how old are you, Matilda?

Matilda Four years and three months.

Narrator Mrs Phelps was more stunned than ever, but she had the sense not to show it.



Narrator

Matilda

QUIZ



Use this quick quiz to test children's understanding of *Matilda*. The first five questions are based on the extract from the book that is included in this pack, so will be suitable for any age of children who have listened to it. The second five are based on the book as a whole, so will be suitable for those who have read all of *Matilda*.

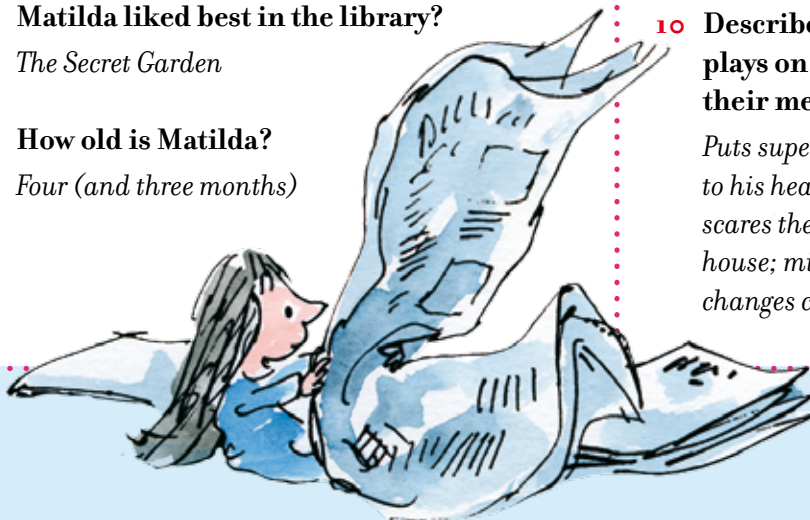
Try reading out the questions immediately after the extract. You could ask children to put their hands up if they know the answer, or, if it's a smaller, older group, distribute some pieces of paper so they can write down their answers to be marked later. Consider offering a prize to the winner – a Roald Dahl book, perhaps.

EXTRACT QUESTIONS

- 1 What does Matilda's father think she should do instead of reading a book?
Watch the TV
- 2 Where does Matilda's mother go every afternoon?
To play bingo
- 3 What is the name of the librarian who helps Matilda with her reading?
Mrs Phelps
- 4 What is the name of the book that Matilda liked best in the library?
The Secret Garden
- 5 How old is Matilda?
Four (and three months)

FULL STORY QUESTIONS

- 6 What is the name of Matilda's school?
Crunchem Hall
- 7 What is the name of Matilda's headteacher?
Miss Trunchbull
- 8 What is Miss Honey's first name?
Jenny or Jennifer
- 9 What is Matilda's brother called?
Michael
- 10 Describe one of the three tricks Matilda plays on her parents to pay them back for their meanness.
Puts superglue on her father's hat so it sticks to his head; puts a parrot up the chimney and scares them by pretending there's a ghost in the house; mixes up her father's hair oil so his hair changes colour and falls out.



DISCUSSION TOPICS

The extract from *Matilda* makes a great basis for discussion of these two topics. Choose whichever is most suitable to your group or, if you've time, discuss both.

BOOKS AND READING

For *Matilda*, books are a way of escaping her unhappy life at home and learning about the world. Use the extract to talk about the joys of reading and to promote your own school library or, if you don't have one, the local public library. Try asking these questions about books, and answer them yourself to get the conversation started.

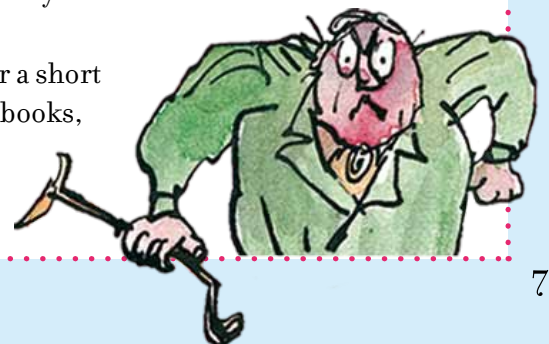
- What did you like about the extract from *Matilda*? What were your favourite bits? Was there anything you didn't like or think could be improved?
- Are you a bookworm like Matilda? Where and when do you like to read? Do you have any special places for books? How do you feel when you read a good story? What are your favourite books?
- What do you like about books like *Matilda*? Do they transport you to different places or tell you new things?
- What other Roald Dahl books have you read? How do they compare to *Matilda*? What is similar about the books and what is different?
- What is the best book you've ever read? Can you explain why you like it so much?
- Who are your favourite book characters? Matilda is the hero of this story; can you think of any other good heroes from stories? What is it that is special about them? Can you think of any characters who, like Matilda, have special magic powers?



BULLYING AND HOME TROUBLES

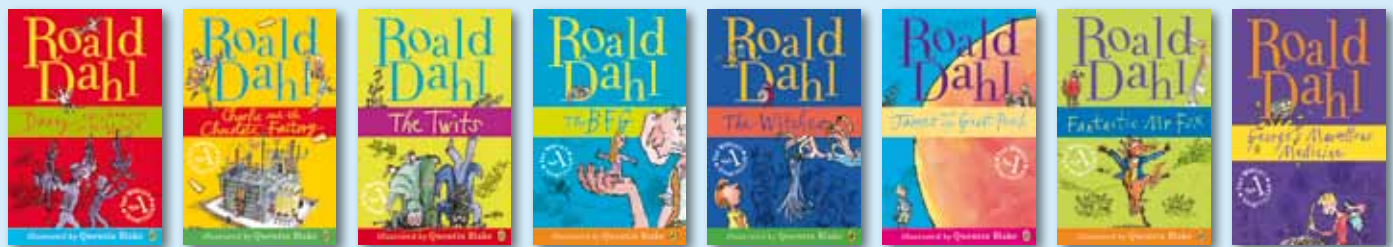
Matilda has to cope with uncaring parents and a horrible teacher. Explain that there are no Miss Trunchbulls here, and use the extract to start a talk about bullying.

- Ask children what they think they would do if they were in Matilda's position and feeling unhappy at home or school. Then take the opportunity to explain what they can and should do in those situations. Explain the school's policy on bullying and how seriously you take the issue. Remind children that they can talk to any teacher about any problems they have at school or home.
- You could also use *Matilda* to illustrate how being mean to other people is never a good idea. One of the messages of the book is how the three bullies of the book get their come-uppance, with Miss Trunchbull and Matilda's mother and father all having to run away because their nasty behaviour has caught up with them.
- For older children, you could also use the book as the basis for a short talk about Roald Dahl. Run through his life and most popular books, and ask children what they know and like about him. You can find lots of material at www.roalddahl.com.



READ ON WITH Roald Dahl

If you have enjoyed this assembly about Matilda, why not explore more of Roald Dahl's wonderful stories and characters? Here are six fun ways to get into the world of Roald Dahl.



- 1 Start by reading some of his brilliant books! There's *Matilda*, of course – the story of Matilda Wormwood, her rotten parents, the horrible Miss Trunchbull and the wonderful Miss Honey. If you have already read that, discover some other Roald Dahl treats. You might like to try *George's Marvellous Medicine* – the story of a boy and the strange potion he makes to cure his grandmother of her grumpiness. Or how about *The BFG* – in which Sophie has all sorts of adventures with a big friendly giant? There's more incredible magic in *James and the Giant Peach*, and lots of fun adventures in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Or if you liked some of the unpleasant characters in *Matilda* like Miss Trunchbull or Mr Wormwood, you could read *The Witches*. Try them – you're sure to enjoy them!
- 2 If your class or library need some help to get into Roald Dahl's fantastic books, take part in the **Roald Dahl Reading Relay!** The challenge is to read at least three different Roald Dahl books between September and December 2010. Log your progress in a special diary, and receive a special 'Revolting Reader' certificate when you finish! You will find everything you need to get you started at www.roalddahl.com.
- 3 If you like *Matilda*, the good news is that it's being turned into a musical! It is being staged at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon from 9 November 2010–30 January 2011. If you go with an adult, children get in for half price, and there are special discounts for groups. Get more info at www.matildamusical.com or book tickets by calling 0844 800 1110.
- 4 Like many other Roald Dahl books, *Matilda* has also been turned into a film. Along with *The BFG*, *Danny the Champion of the World*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Fantastic Mr Fox* and others, you can watch it on DVD or video.
- 5 For a great day out, visit the **Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre**. It's in the village of Great Missenden, not far from London, where Roald Dahl lived and wrote his books. There are lots of interesting displays about Roald Dahl and his books, and free craft and storytelling sessions – sometimes held in Miss Honey's classroom! You can plan your visit at www.roalddahlmuseum.org, or call 01494 892192 for more details.
- 6 For lots more information about Roald Dahl Day, Roald Dahl, his books and characters and the hut where he wrote his stories, visit the official website at www.roalddahl.com





Can You Do Something Marvellous?

On Roald Dahl Day, and throughout September, Roald Dahl fans are being asked to do something marvellous to raise money for Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

Perhaps you could turn your school hall or library into a chocolate factory, have a Roald Dahl themed dress-up day or cook up some Revolting Recipes? There are lots of helpful ideas and activities available from roalddahl.com or you might prefer to come up with a marvellous idea of your own!

All money raised will help to support children in the UK living with serious medical conditions – to find out how the money you raise can help, visit the Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity website – www.marvellouschildrenscharity.org

The Charity always loves to hear about the fun people have when fundraising so do get in touch to tell them all about your marvellous activities.

Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity

We believe that every child has the right to a good quality of life, no matter how ill they are. So we raise money to support individuals and organisations so that sick children can receive the highest quality care, advice and support.

Whether that's through providing nurses, equipment, carers or toys, working with hospitals and care organisations or directly with patients, we want to improve the lives of seriously ill children in the UK.

We think that's a marvellous thing to do. We hope you agree.



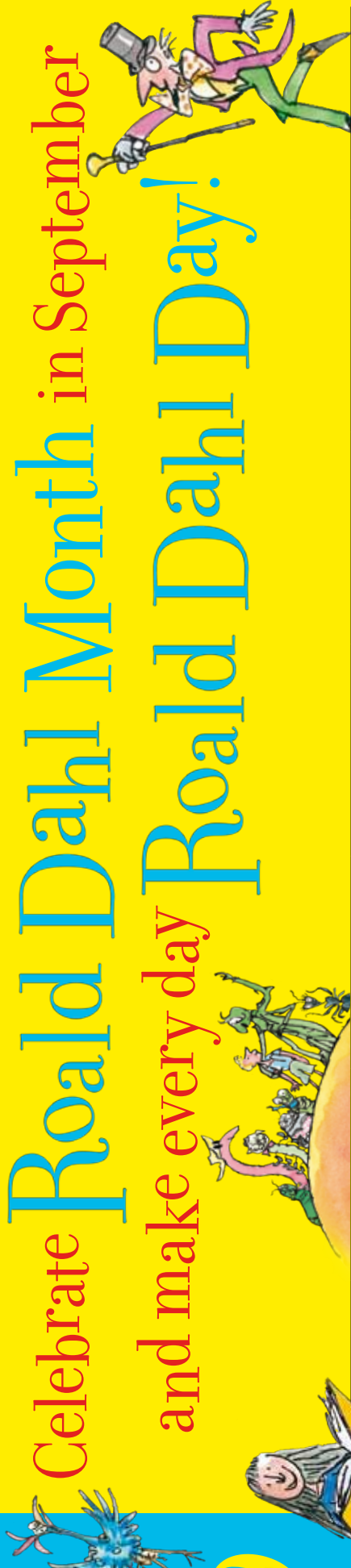
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Making life better
for seriously ill children

Sep tember

Celebrate Roald Dahl Month in September and make every day Roald Dahl Day!



<p>Matilda adores reading – designate a special table in your bookshop or classroom library today as 'Matilda's Favourite Books'.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Don't be a Twit – sign-up for the Dahl-y Telegraph at roalddahl.com.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Catch dreams like <i>The BFG</i>: You can make a dreamcatcher from some string or wool tied tightly across a hoop. Decorate it with feathers, foil, buttons; anything you think would invite amazing dreams.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Build a bird-feeder out of a shoebox and fill it with birdseed. Think of new and exciting ways to attract birds like <i>Danny the Champion of the World</i>.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Drink a James and the Giant Peach juice! Blend together 6 fresh peaches (skinned and pitted), half a mango, juice of one lemon and ice cubes. It's deliriously!</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Be the opposite of <i>The Twits</i> – give people a great big smile and be nice to everyone you see.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Stand on your head for as long as you can – just like a Muggle-Wump. Be glad you don't live with those gruesome <i>Twits</i>!</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Stand on your head for as long as you can – just like a Muggle-Wump. Be glad you don't live with those gruesome <i>Twits</i>!</p> <p>24</p>	<p>When you see your friends today, say a big OLLEH! Words that are written backwards worked very well for Mr Hoppy in <i>Esio Trot</i>.</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Today is ROALD DAHL DAY! Celebrate with a piece of tummy tickling chocolate cake – YUM!</p> <p>13</p>	<p>You may not have a Giraffe or a Pelly or a Monkey to wash your windows, but you can still give people incredible views through your shop or classroom windows! Create a tremendous Roald Dahl display.</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Use the word scrumdiddlyumptious ten times today!</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Mix together ice cream, chocolate, marshmallows and other delicious ingredients to create your own Wonkas Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight!</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Mix together ice cream, chocolate, marshmallows and other delicious ingredients to create your own Wonkas Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight!</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Make up an Oompa Loompa dance and get all of your friends to join in!</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Make up an Oompa Loompa dance and get all of your friends to join in!</p> <p>28</p>
<p>Being creative is the most marvellous medicine to cure boredom on a rainy day. Use the downloadable activity sheets on roalddahlday.info and have some fun!</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Host a Roald Dahl film day and watch <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>, <i>The Witches</i> and <i>Matilda</i>!</p> <p>29</p>	<p>Swap your favourite Roald Dahl book with a friend.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Wear something yellow – Roald Dahl's favourite colour.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>If the power of <i>The Magic Finger</i> could help you swap places with anyone in the world, who would you want to be? Dress up and take photos!</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Wear something yellow – Roald Dahl's favourite colour.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Stand on your head for as long as you can – just like a Muggle-Wump. Be glad you don't live with those gruesome <i>Twits</i>!</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Stand on your head for as long as you can – just like a Muggle-Wump. Be glad you don't live with those gruesome <i>Twits</i>!</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Use the word scrumdiddlyumptious ten times today!</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Today is ROALD DAHL DAY! Celebrate with a piece of tummy tickling chocolate cake – YUM!</p> <p>13</p>	<p>You may not have a Giraffe or a Pelly or a Monkey to wash your windows, but you can still give people incredible views through your shop or classroom windows! Create a tremendous Roald Dahl display.</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Use the word scrumdiddlyumptious ten times today!</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Mix together ice cream, chocolate, marshmallows and other delicious ingredients to create your own Wonkas Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight!</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Mix together ice cream, chocolate, marshmallows and other delicious ingredients to create your own Wonkas Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight!</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Make up an Oompa Loompa dance and get all of your friends to join in!</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Make up an Oompa Loompa dance and get all of your friends to join in!</p> <p>28</p>



Celebrate the world of Fantastic
Roald Dahl

Get your Complete Roald Dahl Day Kit - everything you need to organise your own activities and celebrations, available to download from roalddahlday.info

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