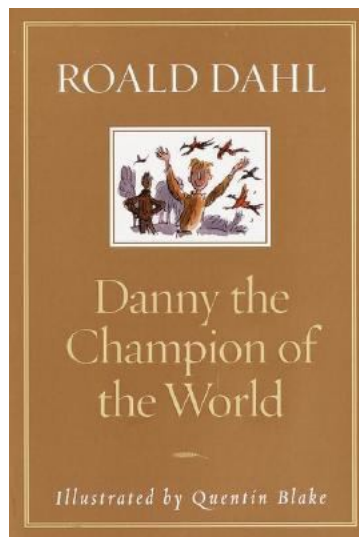


Danny The Champion of The World



By

Roald Dahl

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

Danny the Champion of the World

By Roald Dahl

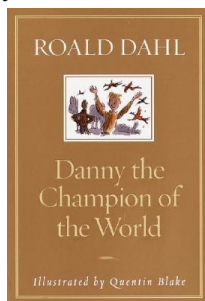


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About the author: Joel Reed has over 50 published novel studies and is the co-author of three novels. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites www.reedpublications.org and www.novelstudies.org.

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Danny the Champion of the World

By Roald Dahl

Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on three chapters of *Danny The Champion Of The World* and is comprised of five of the following different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities in this unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include growing up, families and family relationships, knowing the difference between right and wrong.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *foreshadowing*.
7. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*
14. Identify *anagrams*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

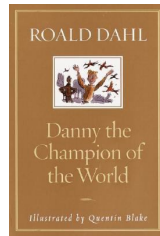
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write a description of personal feelings
6. Write a book review
7. Complete an Observation Sheet

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Create an Information Card
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

Danny has a life any boy would love – his home is a gypsy caravan, he's the youngest master car mechanic around, and his best friend is his dad, who never runs out of wonderful stories to tell. But one night Danny discovers a shocking secret that his father has kept hidden for years. Soon Danny finds himself the mastermind behind the most incredible plot ever attempted against nasty Victor Hazell, a wealthy landowner with a bad attitude. Can Danny and his father pull it off? If so, Danny will truly be the champion of the world. (The Publisher – Puffin Books)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danny_the_Champion_of_the_World

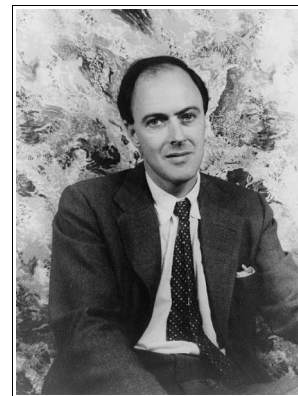
Author Biography

Roald Dahl

Few authors of children's books have been as prolific or successful as **Roald Dahl** (1916-1990). His novels have been read and enjoyed by countless children the world over and include such classics as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *George's Marvelous Medicine*. Shortly before his death, the top five selling children's books in Great Britain were all authored by Dahl.

Born to Norwegian immigrants, Roald Dahl hailed from Llandaff, Wales. Despite losing his father when he was only four, Roald claimed to have had a most happy and eventful childhood. Although not a particularly good student, Roald did excel at athletics.

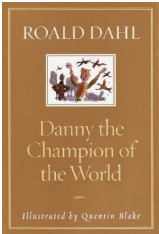
Dahl was married to the famous actress, **Patricia Neal**, for many years and they had five children together. The couple were, however, divorced after thirty years of marriage. Roald began his writing career as a short story writer, and didn't pen his first children's novel until 1961 – *James and Giant Peach*. This was followed by several more bestsellers.



Roald Dahl passed away in 1990 at the age of 74. In Great Britain the anniversary of Dahl's birthday on 13 September has become widely celebrated as **Roald Dahl Day**.

Danny the Champion of the World

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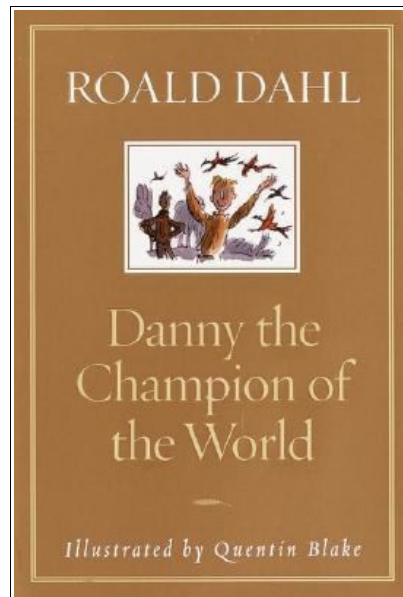


Student Checklist

Student Name: _____

Assignment	Grade/Level	Comments

Danny the Champion of the World

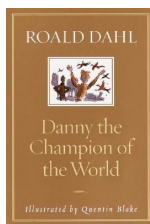


By Roald Dahl

Name: _____

Danny the Champion of the World

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Chapters 1-2

The Filling Station - The BFG



Before you read the chapter:

In the first few pages of the book we read that Danny was a car mechanic before the age of 5. Think of a hobby or skill that you're good at, and briefly describe it in the space below.



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

thrilling	engineers	imprisons	workshop
educated	impossible	caravan	mysterious

1. We lived in a gypsy _____ behind a filling station.
2. I was now a scruffy little boy as you can see, with grease and oil all over me, but that was because I spent all day in the _____ helping my father with the automobiles.
3. “We are _____, you and I,” he used to say to me. “We earn our living by repairing engines and we can't do good work in a rotten workshop.”
4. My father was not what you would call an _____ man.

5. “Dreams, my love, are very _____ things.”
6. “He _____ them in glass bottles and screws the tops down tight,” my father said. “He has thousands of these bottles in his cave.”
7. “It is _____ to tell you how much I love my father.”
8. “No,” my father said. “It was _____ to see him, and a little eerie, but I wasn’t frightened. Go to sleep no, Good night.”

Questions



1. Describe the **setting** of the story as Chapter One begins.

2. Why was Danny left in the care of his father at such a young age?

3. What did Danny's father look like whenever he heard or thought of something funny?

4. According to Danny's father, how was the BFG able to catch dreams?

5. What happened to the children who breathed in the BFG's dream powder?



Language Activity

A. The author seems to enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: “. . . **g**rouching, **g**rouching, **g**rumbling, **g**ripping about something or other.”

Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The sound of nails across a chalkboard.	
The sound of a police car, firetruck or ambulance.	
A man using a jackhammer.	

B. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter One is “. . . *The lavatory was a funny little wooden hut standing in the meadow way back of the caravan. It was fine in summertime, but I can tell you that sitting out there on a snowy day in winter was like sitting in an icebox.*”

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) Trees blowing in the wind.

--

b) An airplane taking off on a runway.

--

C. Living Wherever The Wind Takes You!

Did you know that there are literally hundreds of different varieties of live-in-vehicles found around the world?

Danny the Champion of the World features one such vehicle known as a 'Caravan'. This particular vehicle was made famous by the Gypsy people in the latter part of the 19th century. It was once believed that the Gypsies (also known as the 'Romanies'), originated in Egypt, and in one narrative were exiled as a punishment for allegedly harbouring the infant Jesus during the tyrannical rein of King Herod 'The Great'.



It is your duty to research a similar live-in-vehicle and share at least three fascinating facts about it with the rest of your classmates, as well as a picture drawn in the box below. Feel free to create your own live-in-vehicle design by using your imagination!
