

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

13th - 19th March 2023



Should Roald Dahl's books be changed for modern times?



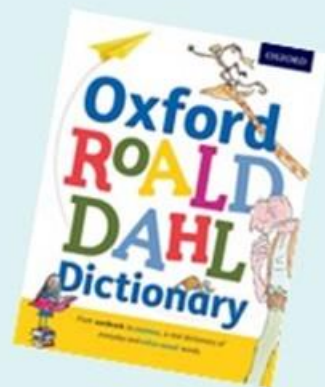
Let's look at this week's story



Book publisher, Puffin, has announced that stories by the famous children's author Roald Dahl are going to be changed, making them more suitable for modern times. Roald Dahl is famous for his books, including Matilda, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, and The BFG. The changes include taking out unkind descriptions of characters' appearance such as 'fat' and 'ugly'. Some people disagree with changes, including the UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak and the Queen Consort, Camilla.

~~mad~~
~~crazy~~

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



Pictured: Oxford Roald Dahl dictionary
by Oxford Dictionaries (Author),
Quentin Blake (Illustrator),
Susan Rennie (Contributor),
Roald Dahl (Contributor)

How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below about Roald Dahl's books and why they are being changed.

Why are Roald Dahl's books being changed?

Roald Dahl has written over 20 children's books and is thought to be one of the most popular UK children's authors, he died in 1990. The changes are happening following a review by the Roald Dahl Story Company and the publisher, Puffin. They worked with Inclusive Minds, who are a group working towards kinder and more inclusive writing in children's books. The Roald Dahl Story Company said it wanted to 'ensure that Roald Dahl's wonderful stories and characters continue to be enjoyed by all children today'.



Roald Dahl Story Company

What are the changes being made?

- 'Crazy' and 'mad' have been taken out of the books
- From *The Twits*, the word 'weird' has been removed from the phrase 'a weird African language'
- Mrs Twit, from *The Twits*, is now described as 'beastly' and no longer 'ugly and beastly'

~~crazy~~ ~~mad~~

Pictured left: Author Roald Dahl

What do others think of the change?

It is important that... works of fiction are preserved and not airbrushed. We have always defended the right to free speech.

A spokesperson for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

If Dahl offends us, let him go out of print... Read all these [other] wonderful authors who are writing today, who don't get as much of a look-in.

Author Philip Pulman

Share your thoughts. Do you think some of the text should be changed?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about Roald Dahl.



Roald Dahl Story Company

Roald Dahl was born in South Wales on 13th September 1916. Before he became an author, he was a pilot for the Royal Air Force and flew during World War II. He also became a spy for MI6!



In 1943, he wrote his first ever children's book. It was called *The Gremlins*, which was about some creatures causing all sorts of mechanical problems on aeroplanes.

He spent around four hours a day writing stories in his garden shed known as his 'writing hut'.

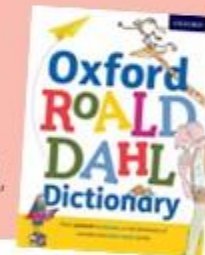


Many of the characters created by Roald Dahl were inspired by people he'd met in real life. The little girl from *The BFG* was named Sophie after his granddaughter!



Roald Dahl invented many new words such as *scrumdiddlyumptious*, *snozzberries* and *churgle*. He called his language *Gobblefunk*. There is even an official Oxford Roald Dahl dictionary, featuring real and imaginary words he loved to use.

Source: Oxford Roald Dahl dictionary by Oxford Dictionaries (Author), Quentin Blake (Illustrator), Susan Rennie (Contributor), Roald Dahl (Contributor)



Roald Dahl died on 23rd November 1990. Since 13th September 2006 (his birthday), there has been a Roald Dahl Day to celebrate his stories.



**Does any of the information surprise you?
Is there anything else you would like to find out?**



Look at the resource below, which shares examples of some things that have been updated for modern times.

Laws



The nine protected characteristics of The Equality Act 2010, which are illegal to discriminate against.

Uniforms



Vehicles



Phones



Buildings



Money



Clothes



Can you think of anything else that has been updated for modern times?



Should Roald Dahl's books be changed for modern times?



Reflection



As time moves forward, opinions and thoughts often evolve and change. There may be times when we want words or opinions to change to reflect this, but there may also be times that we can use the past and the words in it as opportunities to learn.





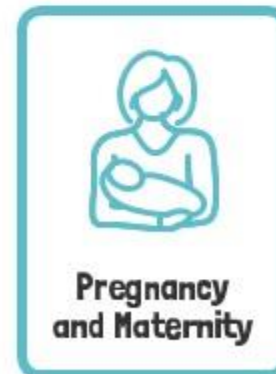
Rule of Law

As we move into the future, things develop, change and modernise. Rules and laws will sometimes need to be updated because of this.

Protected Characteristics



Roald Dahl was born in 1916. He based many of his stories and characters on his real life experiences. People of different ages are likely to have different life experiences but we should never be treated unfairly because of our age or the age group we are in.





UN Rights of a Child



Parents or guardians are the main people responsible for bringing up a child. They should always consider what is best for us. This may involve deciding which books are suitable for us to read.



Useful vocabulary



Airbrushed

Represented or described as better or more beautiful than in reality.

It is important that... works of fiction are preserved and not **airbrushed**.

Evolve

To develop gradually.

As time moves forward, opinions and thoughts often **evolve** and change.

Inclusive

Include many different types of people and treat them all fairly and equally.

They worked with **Inclusive** Minds, who are a group working towards kinder and more **inclusive** writing in children's books.

Modernised

Made something more modern so it relates to present times.

Is there anything in them that you feel could be changed or **modernised**?

Review

A formal assessment of something in order to make changes, if necessary.

The changes are happening following a **review** by the Roald Dahl Story Company and the publisher, Puffin.

Updated

Made something more modern or suitable for use.

Can you come up with examples of other things that have been **updated** or changed over time?

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Should Roald Dahl's books be changed for modern times?

Book publisher, Puffin, has announced that stories by the famous children's author Roald Dahl are going to be changed, making them more suitable for modern times. Roald Dahl is famous for his books, including *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *The BFG*. The changes include taking out unkind descriptions of characters' appearance such as 'fat' and 'ugly'. Some people disagree with the changes, including the UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak and the Queen Consort, Camilla.



- Look at this week's poster image. Does anybody know why Roald Dahl's books have been in the news recently?
- Read the information found on the assembly resource about Roald Dahl's books and why they are being changed. Share your thoughts. Do you think some of the text should be changed?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows what different members of the public think about this story. Which of the opinions is most like yours?
- Thinking about some of the books you enjoy, who are the authors and when were the books written? Is there anything in them that you feel could be changed or modernised?
- If you had written something a long time ago, how do you think you would feel if others wanted to change it? What types of changes do you think would be OK and which do you believe you wouldn't be happy with?
- Can you come up with examples of other things that have been updated or changed over time?

Reflection

As time moves forward, opinions and thoughts often evolve and change. There may be times when we want words or opinions to change to reflect this, but there may also be times that we can use the past and the words in it as opportunities to learn.

Picture News



KS1 focus

Who was Roald Dahl?



- Share this week's poster. It shows a pile of books that are all written by the same author. What is an author? Do you know which author wrote these books?
- Roald Dahl is the author. Have you heard of him before? Have you read any of his books? Can you name any of their titles or some of the characters found in them? Do you know anything about Roald Dahl?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some information about Roald Dahl. Does any of the information surprise you? Is there anything else you would like to find out?
- Roald Dahl enjoyed writing his stories in his garden shed. He sat in a cosy armchair writing with a pencil and yellow paper. Is there a place you enjoy sitting to either write or read? Can you describe what the place is like and why you enjoy being there?
- Focus on some of the words Roald Dahl invented such as *scrumdiddlyumptious*, *snozzberries* and *churgle*. What do you think they mean? Can you try and use one in a sentence? Have you ever invented a word that you have used at home or with your friends?
- Were you aware there is a Roald Dahl Day every year to celebrate his stories? Do you think this is a good idea? Why? Have you ever celebrated it?

Reflection

Roald Dahl is a famous children's author. For years, many people have enjoyed his stories and it is likely they will continue to be enjoyed in years to come.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What other things have been updated for modern times?



- Write 'modern' on the board. What do you think it means? Can you use the word modern in a sentence?
- Modern means relating to the present time. Items can be described as modern, if they include the latest equipment, technology or ideas. People can be described as modern, if they have new ways of thinking or behaving. Can you think of any items or people you could describe as modern?
- Look at resource 2, which shares examples of some things that have been updated for modern times. Can you think of anything else that has been updated for modern times?
- For each example on resource 2, discuss why you think it may have been updated e.g., modern money is more durable and hard to create fake copies of, advances in technology, fashion.
- Think about the law. Rules and laws are in place to protect us but they have been updated many times. Can you think of any laws in the past that we may find shocking now e.g., not all adults could vote, not everyone could marry who they wanted to. How does this make you feel?
- In ten years' time, many things we perceive to be modern now, will no longer be! Think about your school. How do you think it will be different in the future? Think about how you will travel to school, what you will wear, the systems in place, the rules, the school values.
- Can you think of anything that hasn't been updated for modern times?

Reflection

Many things have been updated for modern times to reflect the equipment, technology and ideas available to us. They are likely to be updated in the future too.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Think about your school.

- What would you describe as modern?
- Is there anything you think is old-fashioned?
- Is there anything you believe needs updating?

Focus on one thing you believe needs updating.

- Why do you think it needs updating?
- What benefits would updating it bring? Are there any potential drawbacks?
- How do you think it could be updated?
- How much would it cost?
- How much time would it take?

Write a letter or plan to share your idea with others in school. It may inspire a change!

Option 2

Choose one of the things on resource 2 or an idea of your own and read and research to find out how it has changed over time. Use the following to help:

- Can you find out when it was first invented?
- Who invented it? Who was responsible for its modernisation?
- Were there any periods in history when the updates to it were huge? Why was this the case?
- How do you think it reflected society at the time?
- Can you describe the main differences between it now and 10, 20, 50 years ago?

Share your findings with others and use the opportunity to speak to adults you know about their experiences too.



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Roald Dahl based many of his children's book characters on people he knew or had met. Create your own character based on the people you know! Think about:

- What is their name?
- What do they look like? Eyes, hair colour, height?
- What clothes do they wear?
- How do they behave?
- Are they a happy, excitable, angry character?
- What are their favourites? E.g., food, colour, hobby.

Draw a picture or write a description of your character.

Option 2

Look at this week's picture. Share the titles on the spines of the Roald Dahl books.

- Have you heard of or read any of these stories before?
- Which book would you like to read the most? Why?

Find out which of the Roald Dahl titles from this week's poster is most popular. Think about:

- Who will I ask? People sitting near me, everyone in my class, everyone in school?
- How will I collect the data? A list, a tally chart?

Collect your data before answering the following:

- Which is the most/least popular Roald Dahl title?
- How many people liked Going Solo?
- How many more/less people liked Fantastic Mr Fox than Matilda?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-64702224

This week's useful video

Should Roald Dahl's books be changed?
www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-64720012

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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29 Australian species taken off endangered list



Pictured: Yellow-footed rock wallabies Source: Canva

Australian conservationists are celebrating as a new study has revealed that 29 species, currently on the country's endangered list, have recovered enough to now be removed. The golden, Western barred and Eastern barred bandicoots, Western quoll, sooty albatross, waterfall frog, Flinder's Range worm-lizard, yellow-footed rock wallabies, greater bilby, humpback whale, growling grass frog and

Murray's cod are among the animals that can all be removed from this list, which currently includes 446 species. The research shows that 15 mammals, 8 birds, 4 frogs, a reptile and a fish have increased in population size and distribution, so are no longer considered in genuine need of protection under the Australia's Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

Super storytellers

BBC Breakfast has announced the return of 500 Words initiative, the UK's most successful children's writing competition. Children have created and submitted over a million stories since 500 Words was initially launched in 2011. Jon Kay from BBC Breakfast, with the help of the pupils and staff from Conway Primary School in Birmingham, announced that this year, there will be two age categories, 5-7-year-olds and 8-11-year-olds. Any child between these ages can enter and there's no need to worry about spelling, punctuation, or grammar. Each entry will be judged on its storytelling and

imagination! The judges this year include award-winning and best-selling authors, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson, former children's laureate, Malorie Blackman, and World Book Day ambassador, Sir Lenny Henry. Charlie Higson, author of the Young Bond book collection, said, 'Have fun with it, there are no rules and what we really want is to see inside those kids' minds and get their personalities through the stories. And I think anyone judging it is going to have huge fun seeing what stories these kids are telling'.

Would you like to write and enter a story?



Pictured: BBC Breakfast announcing the return of BBC 500 Words with the help of the pupils and staff at Conway Primary School in Birmingham Source: BBC Breakfast Twitter page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



No 'scone' left unturned



Sarah Merker, from Isleworth in West London, has eaten a scone at every possible National Trust location in England, Wales and Northern Ireland! She took to her Twitter account 'National Trust Scones' to announce that she had completed her decade-long mission to sample a scone at each of the 244 National Trust properties. The project involved ranking each one on her blog and inspired her to write a book, the 'National Trust Book of Scones' which includes 50 recipes and some interesting historical facts. Sarah ate scone number 244 at the Giant's Causeway, in County Antrim. This is an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient

volcanic fissure eruption, formed 60 million years ago. Talking about the experience, she said, '...it's been a weird experience. I don't know what I'd call it - it's more than a hobby. It's taken up a lot of my time and effort over the past 10 years and I'll really miss it.' Out of all the scones that she has tried during the project, Sarah says that she has only had two she didn't like. She also stated that her favourite was a Christmas pudding scone with brandy butter at Treasurer's House, in the centre of York. Her top tip for a delicious scone - it has to be fresh! 'It takes a lot to ruin a fresh scone,' she commented. 'As long as the scone has been baked that day, you can hardly ever go wrong.'

Have you ever baked scones?

Last week's topic:

Will the world become cashless in the future?

I hope not because computers can make mistakes could be hacked
George



Yes it is true the world will go cashless.
Mohammed

No because we need cash.
Coco

I think yes because cryptocurrencies are getting more famous.
Nicole

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

 www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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TAKEHOME



Should Roald Dahl's books be changed for modern times?



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you read any Roald Dahl books? Has anyone else at home? Share your thoughts about the changes. Do you think the stories should be updated?
- > Ask someone older what their favourite books were when they were younger. Are they still being read by children today? Why do you think that is the case?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

