

2015-2016

# DISCOVERY



Resource Guide

## The B.F.G. (Big Friendly Giant)

Adapted for the stage by David Wood  
from the book by Roald Dahl  
Produced by Dallas Children's Theatre



**APRIL 20, 2016**

**9:30 & 11:30 A.M. • VICTORIA THEATRE**

The Frank M. *Cait* FOUNDATION  
**Discovery** Series

**VICTORIA  
THEATRE**  
ASSOCIATION  
[www.victoriatheatre.com](http://www.victoriatheatre.com)

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Frank M. Tait Foundation Discovery Series at Victoria Theatre Association. We are very excited to be your partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

Roald Dahl's stories have been read by millions of people all over the world, and out of the vast array of well-known characters he created, the B.F.G. (Big Friendly Giant) is his personal favorite! He would even use a ladder to climb up to his grandchildren's windows to blow good dreams to them as the B.F.G. After appearing in an earlier Dahl story *Danny, the Champion of the World*, the B.F.G. finally got his own story which was published in 1982. Immediately, it inspired several adaptations for the stage and screen. In fact, Steven Spielberg is directing his own B.F.G. due to be released in 2016!

The information and activities in this resource guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a "page to stage" experience can open up learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for students, too. And don't forget to take advantage of the local resources listed inside to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again and welcome!

**Gary Minyard**  
Vice President of  
Education & Engagement



# Curriculum Connections

You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students' age and abilities. *THE B.F.G.* fulfills the following National and Ohio State Standards and Benchmarks for grades 2-6:

## English/Language Arts Standards

**Grade 2-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.6

**Grade 3-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6

**Grade 4-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.7

**Grade 5-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6

**Grade 6-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.7

## Ohio Department of Education Drama/Theatre Standards

**Grade 2-** 1CE-7CE, 1PR-3PR, 1RE-6RE

**Grade 3-** 1CE-5CE, 1PR-6PR, 1RE-5RE

**Grade 4-** 1CE-6CE, 1PR-7PR, 1RE-5RE

**Grade 5-** 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-5RE

**Grade 6-** 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-7RE

## National Core Arts Theatre Standards:

Grades 2-6:  
CREATING, PERFORMING,  
RESPONDING, CONNECTING Anchor  
Strands 1-11

For more information on the National Core Arts Theatre Standards [click here](#)

## Ohio's New Learning Standards for Social Studies

Civic Participation and Skills (Grades 2-6)



This resource guide was created by Elaine Stoughton. All activities are available for distribution and use in the classroom or at home.

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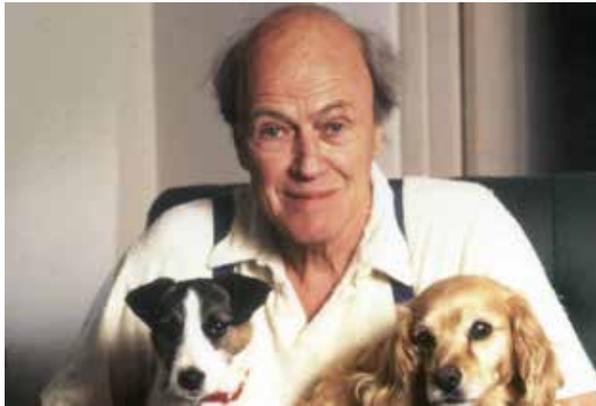
# About the Play

## The B.F.G.

One night, a lonely orphan named Sophie is snatched away to an enchanted land by a giant who blows magical dreams into children's bedrooms. Her harmless, big-eared captor with a serious vocabulary problem is none other than the B.F.G. (also known as the **Big Friendly Giant**). When more menacing giants threaten to munch on human beings the pair of misfits embark on an unforgettable adventure. On the way they are aided by the Queen of England, The British Army, and the Royal Air Force. This unforgettable story proves that heroes (and friendship) can come in all shapes and sizes.

## About the Author:

**Roald Dahl** was one of the greatest story tellers of all time. He was born in Llanduff, South Wales, in 1916, and attended school at several boarding schools in England. In search of adventure after graduation, Roald took a job with Shell Oil in Africa. When World War II broke out he joined the Royal Air Force and trained as a Fighter Pilot. He suffered severe injuries and nearly died in a plane crash in 1942. While recovering from this terrible accident, Roald had a chance encounter with C.S. Forester (author of the *Captain Horatio Hornblower* series). This meeting inspired interests in writing and his career as an author began. He started out by writing articles for magazines such as *The New Yorker*. He also wrote mini-novels and short stories for adults, such as *Tales of the Unexpected*. He began writing stories for children after he and his wife Liccy had their first child. The first of these stories, *James and the Giant Peach*, was written in 1960, followed by *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, in 1964, and an unbroken string of widely successful, best-selling titles. Roald Dahl took inspiration from everything he encountered, and worked out of a tiny hut in an orchard on his property in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England. In 1983 he received the World of Fantasy Award for Life Achievement for his contribution to literature, and the Children's Author of the Year award from the British Book Awards in 1990. Over 100 million copies of his books have been published all over the world. Roald Dahl passed away in 1990 at the age of 74.



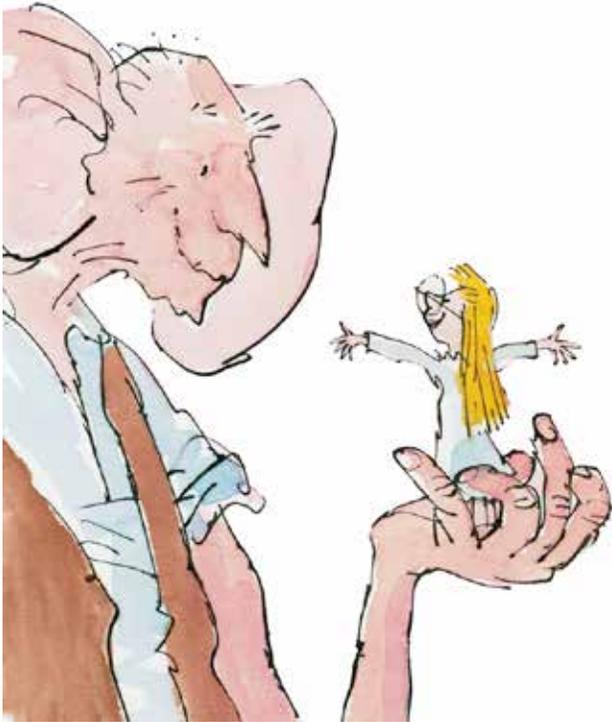
## Ohio Spotlight

THE B.F.G. is all about good dreams. As you will learn on page 10 of this resource guide, the Lakota people made dream catchers to insure good dreams and filter out bad dreams at night. There is significant Native American history right here in Dayton. You can learn more about Dayton's history and visit an actual archeological site at SunWatch Indian Village. The mission of SunWatch is to protect, preserve and research the cultural remains of the SunWatch National Historic Landmark archaeological site and to serve as a visitor and educational center for archaeology, Native American culture, and heritage stewardship as they relate to the site. Learn more and plan your visit at <http://www.sunwatch.org/>.



COMPREHENSION

# 5 Facts about the B.F.G.



## 1. The B.F.G. began life as a scribble in journal

Throughout his life, Roald Dahl kept what he called his "Ideas Books," old-school exercise books he used to write down any inspiration for a story that came to him. This is how *The B.F.G.* began - as a note in one of Roald's books, scrawled in pencil, revisited years later and published when Roald was 66. The "Ideas Books" are now stored in the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre archive. Roald would only take notes and write drafts if he was writing on a yellow pad of paper with a pencil.

## 2. The Big Friendly Giant made his first appearance in *Danny, the Champion of the World*

The character of The Big Friendly Giant first appeared in Roald's 1975 story *Danny, the Champion of the World*. He was a character in a

bedtime story Danny's father told him "which must have gone on for at least fifty nights," and many of the details about the character are the same, from his ability to mix dreams to his incredible hearing.

## 3. The character "Sophie" was originally "Jody"

In early drafts of the story, the child snatched by the BFG from an orphanage bedroom was not Sophie, but a little boy named Jody. Jody soon transformed into Sophie - named after Roald's first grandchild - the resourceful and brave girl who helps the B.F.G. outwit those other horrible giants.

## 4. The B.F.G. speaks his own language, and it has a name

As The B.F.G. says to Sophie, "Words... is oh such a twitch-ticking problem to me all my life." His idiosyncratic way of talking - with its tangled-up sentences and newly-crafted phrases - led Roald to draft long lists of words for him to speak. This formed the basis of *Gobblefunk*, which is what we call the B.F.G.'s language, and these lists are also kept in the Roald Dahl Museum archive. You can see a list of some of these words on page 6.

## 5. The B.F.G. was Roald's own favorite - and he even pretended to be the Big Friendly Giant

Roald once said that of all his stories, *The B.F.G.* was particularly close to his heart. It's certainly something that stayed with him throughout his lifetime. Even before he wrote down the story, he was telling the story of the dream-catching giant to his own children and, later, his grandchildren. Roald Dahl would climb a ladder outside their bedrooms and pretend to blow good dreams in through the window - just like the B.F.G.

# Pre-Show Conversation Starters



The B.F.G. is no ordinary bone-crunching giant. He is far too nice and jumbly to be scary. His endearing personality is just one of the many reasons *The B.F.G.* is a timeless story beloved by children and adults all over the world. If you haven't already, be sure to read *The B.F.G.* before attending the stage adaptation at Victoria Theater.

1. After reading *The B.F.G.* have students talk about their reactions to the book. What was your favorite part of the story and why?
2. What is your favorite dream? How did it make you feel?
3. The B.F.G. gives good dreams to children. What is a good dream you would like to give someone else?
4. Even though they are different, The B.F.G. and Sophie learn quite a bit about each other. Can you think of a time that you listened and learned from someone who was different from you? What happened and how did it make you feel?
5. The B.F.G. and Sophie can both be considered heroes. A hero is someone who does something very brave to help another person or group. What is the most heroic thing you have done for a friend or family member?

## Understanding and Using Acronyms

An **ACRONYM** is a word formed from the initial letter of a name or word. The term "acronym" is from a Greek word that means "first letter name." While there is debate on whether an acronym must form a word that can be pronounced as a word, it is generally accepted that any "word" formed from using a combination of initial letters or sounds from a word or phrase constitutes an acronym. Here some popular examples of each type:

Pronounced as a word, containing only initial letters:

Scuba: **S**elf contained **u**nderwater **b**reathing **a**pparatus

Laser: **L**ight **a**mplification by **s**timulated **e**mission of **r**adiation

Pronounced as a word, containing non-initial letters:

Gestapo: **G**eheime **S**taatspoliozei (secret state police)

Nabisco: **N**ational **B**iscuit **C**ompany

Pronounced as a word, containing a combination of initial and non-initial letters:

AIDS: **A**cquired **i**mmune **d**eficiency **s**ndrome

Radar: **R**adio **d**etection **a**nd **r**anging

Pronounced as a string of letters:

FAQ: **F**requently **a**sksed **q**uestion

RSVP: **R**épondez **s**'il vous **p**laît

BFG: **B**ig **F**riendly **G**iant

COMPREHENSION

# Meet the Characters



The BFG

## Get to know the Main Characters in THE B.F.G.

Multiple play the characters in *THE B.F.G.* Take a look at the illustrations from the book by Roald Dahl. The descriptions next to the pictures is taken from the original text of *The B.F.G.*, by Roald Dahl, published in 1982.

"I is a nice and jumbly giant! I is the only nice and jumbly Giant in Giant Country! I is THE BIG FRIENDLY GIANT! I is the B.F.G. What is your name?"



Sophie

"No one is going to be worrying too much about me. That place you took me from was the village orphanage. We are all orphans in there."



The Other Giants

It was a brain-boggling sight. The giants were all naked except for a sort of short skirt around their waists, and their skins were burnt by the sun.



The Queen of England

The Queen of England, 'Sophie said, "You can't call her a squiffleratter or a grinkslugder'

## Classroom Activity

### Blowing Good Dreams

You will need:

- Small, lightweight craft feathers
- Construction Paper
- Tape

Here's what to do:

Roll your piece of construction paper into a cone shape and tape the ends to form a horn. Use your feather as a "dream" and blow it upwards through your dream horn. Encourage students to work together in teams to keep the dreams afloat for as long as possible, or set up a target "dream catcher" basket to catch the good dreams. Afterwards have a conversation about how working together is always a good idea!



CONNECTION

# What did you say?



As Roald Dahl was writing *The B.F.G.* in the early-1980s, he began creating new vocabulary words for the story's friendly giant. This became a 238- word language that he eventually named "Gobblefunk." This language includes words like:

**Buckswashing**- This is the B.F.G.'s word for swashbuckling, as in, "We is doing this lovely bit of buckswashing both together."

**Catasterous**- Disasterous, as in, "Upgoing bubbles is a catasterous disastrophe!" - The B.F.G. on frobscottle

**Gruncious**- Awful, as in, "It's the grueful gruncious Jack! Jack is after me!" - The Fleshlumpeater on 'giant-slayer' Jack

**Hopscotchy**- Cheerful, as in, "Whenever I is feeling a bit scrotty," the B.F.G. said, "a few gollops of frobscottle is always making me hopscotchy again."

**Propsposterous**- Ridiculous, as in, "They maybe is looking a bit propsposterous to you," the B.F.G. said, "but you must believe me when I say they is very extrasual ears indeed."

**Rotsome**- Rotten, as in "So this is the filthing rotsome glubbage you is eating!" - The Bloodbottler to The B.F.G. about the snozzcumber

**Sqjubbling**- Writing, as in "But I cannot be sqjubbling the whole gropefluncking dream on a titchy bit of paper." - The B.F.G.

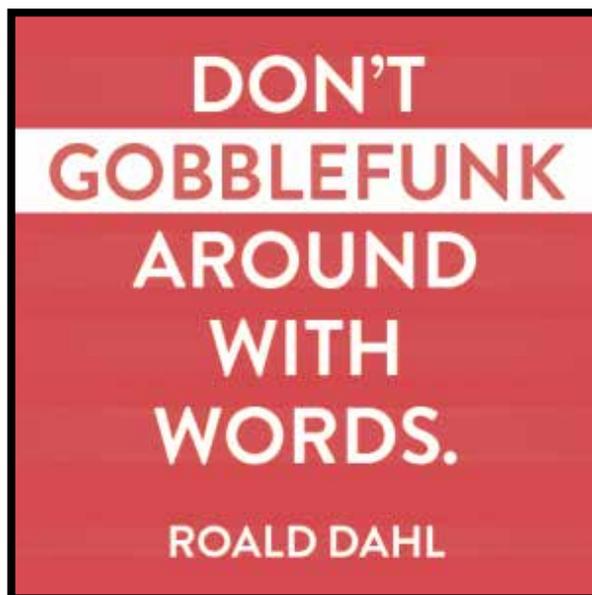
**Ucky-mucky**- Messy, as in, "You will be coming to an ucky-mucky end if any of them should ever be getting his goggles upon you." - The B.F.G. to Sophie

## Speaking Gobblefunk

Use the sentence handout on the next page for the following activities:

Divide students into small groups and provide each group a copy of The B.F.G. Sentence Worksheet. Using sentence context, allow each group to determine the definition of the underlined word.

As a class create a Gobblefunk Dictionary. Your classroom dictionaries can consist of written or illustrated definitions. Feel free to use the words above, on the next page, or from the story—there are lots to choose from! When complete, compile the definitions and illustrations and print a class copy of your Gobblefunk Dictionary.



CONNECTION

# The B.F.G. Sentence Worksheet

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS

SOCIAL  
STUDIES



1. If anyone ever sees a giant, he or she must be taken away **hipswitch**.
2. Nothing is growing in the garden except for one extremely icky-poo vegetable. It is called the **snozcumber**.
3. Sophie told the Giant, "I love the way you talk." "How **Wondercrump!** How **Whoopsey-splunkers!** Thank you, Sophie."
4. A **Whizzpopper!** Us giants are making **whizzpoppers** all the time. It is music to our ears!
5. I am a dream-blowing giant. I blow dreams into the bedrooms of sleeping **chidders**.
6. Oh my! It's a **phizzwizard!** This will be giving some chiddler a very happy night when I am blowing it in.
7. Your **majester**, I am your **humbug** servant.
8. **Delumptious** fizzy **frobscottle!** Everyone must be drinking it.

Using the context in each sentence and your imagination what do you think these words mean?

**Hipswitch** \_\_\_\_\_

**Snozcumber** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wondercrump** \_\_\_\_\_

**Whoopsey-Splunkers** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chidderes** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phizzwizard** \_\_\_\_\_

**Majester** \_\_\_\_\_

**Humbug** \_\_\_\_\_

**Delumptious** \_\_\_\_\_

**Frobscottle** \_\_\_\_\_



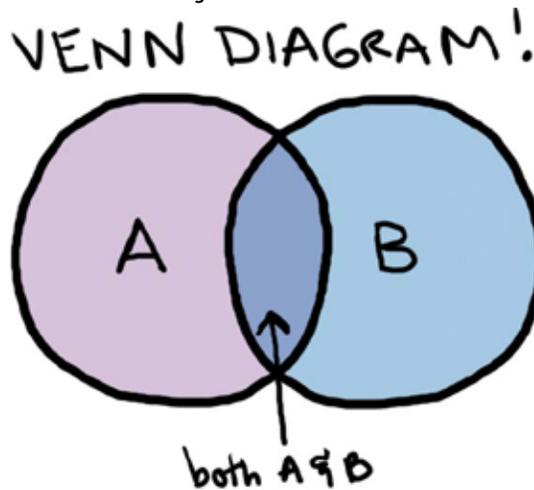
CONNECTION

# Using a Venn Diagram to Compare and Contrast

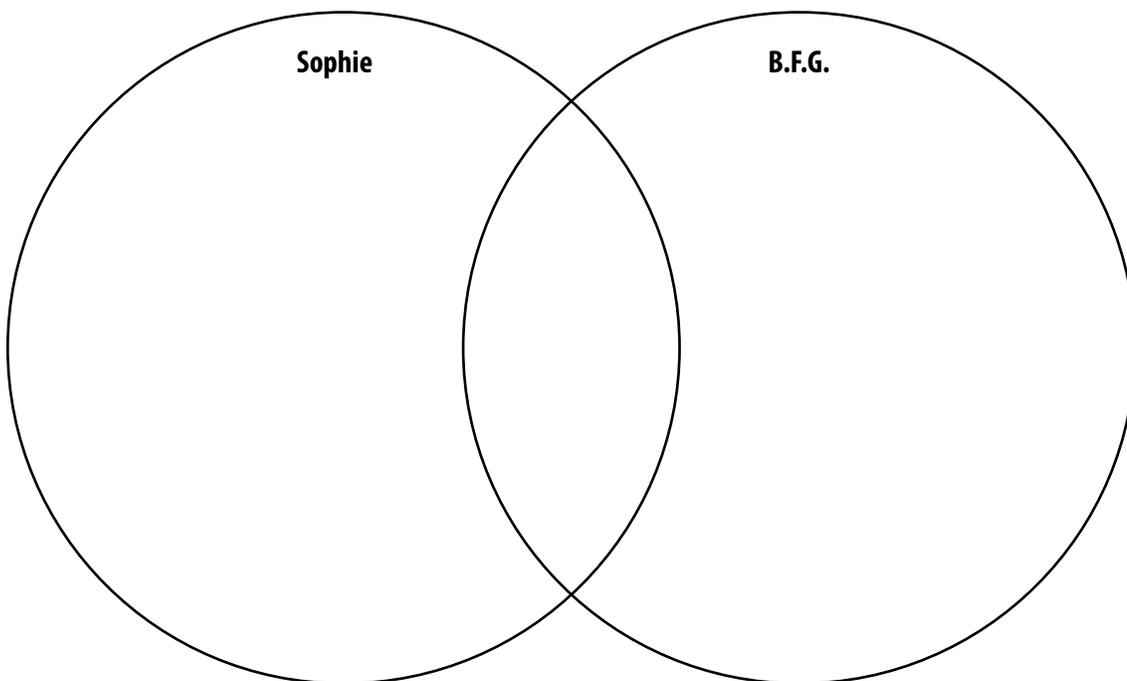


A Venn Diagram is a chart that shows all the similarities and differences between two different items. The Venn Diagram was created in the 1880s by John Venn, an English logician and philosopher. Today they are used in many different areas of study and in classrooms all over the world.

In a Venn Diagram, each large circle represents one item and all the things that make that item unique. The middle of a Venn Diagram is for the overlap—or the similar things or traits that two different items share.



After you have read *The B.F.G.* by Roald Dahl, or have seen *THE B.F.G.* at the Victoria Theatre, use the Venn Diagram below to compare and contrast the two main characters—The Big Friendly Giant and Sophie. In Sophie's circle, write all the aspects of her personality that make her unique; do the same in The B.F.G.'s circle. In the space where the two circles overlap, write down all the characteristics that the two friends share. Even though they look and act quite different, their similarities might surprise you!

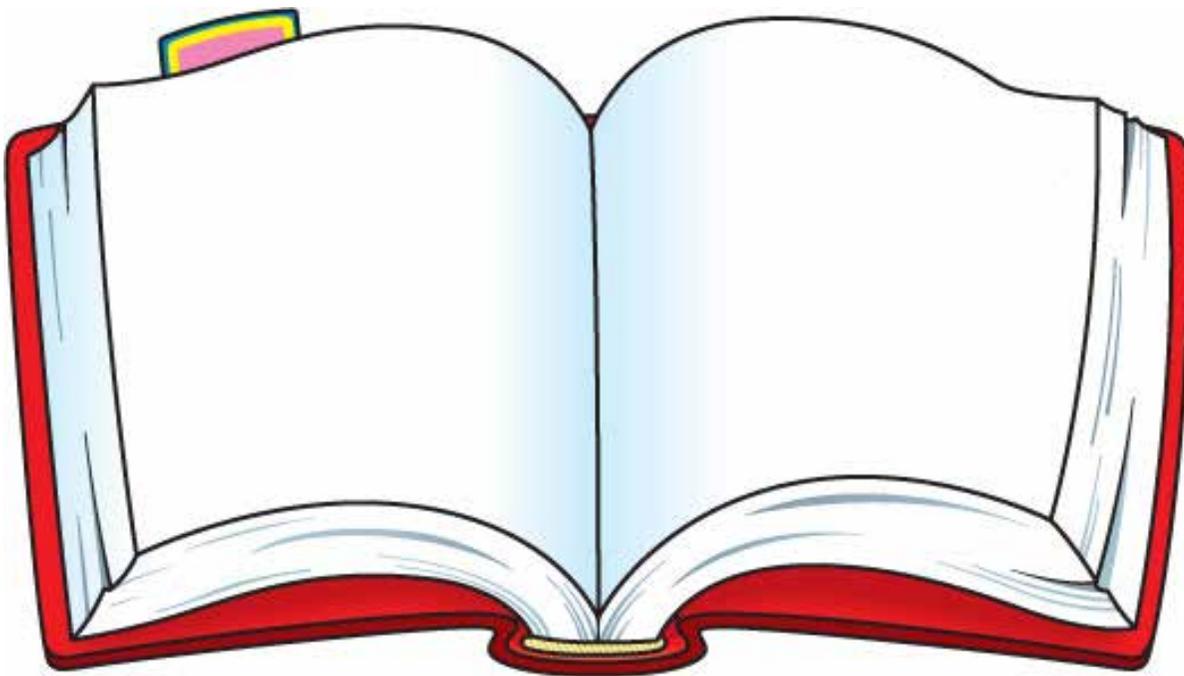


CONNECTION

# Creating your own Secret Language



As you learned on page 6, the B.F.G. has a very colorful and wacky vocabulary! Part of being a hero is thinking creatively and sharing your thoughts and ideas with other people. Have you ever wanted to use a word that exactly described your thoughts or emotions but the word didn't exist? Or have you ever wished you and your best friend could share a secret language that no one else could speak? Now is your chance to start thinking about your very own "Gobblefunk!" Use the space below to come up with the first words of your own language. Make sure to give it a name!



My language is \_\_\_\_\_.

CREATIVITY

# Sweet Dreams!



## Make your own Dream Catcher:

The idea of catching good dreams was around long before Roald Dahl wrote *The B.F.G.* Native American legends tell of a Lakota spiritual leader who received a web from the spirit Iktomi, while he was in the form of a spider. This web was to help the Lakota people filter bad thoughts from good thoughts while they searched for wisdom. Dream Catchers of twigs, sinew, and feathers have been woven for hundreds of years by the Lakota and Chippewa people. The elders of the tribes would weave dream catchers for newborn babies and hang them above their cradles to ensure peaceful sleep. It is said that when the feathers hanging from the dream catcher move, then a good dream has passed through and a bad dream has been caught to be evaporated by the morning sun.

Today, Dream Catchers range from simple crafts to elaborate works of art. You can make one of your very own!

## Supplies to get started:

- paper plate
- yarn, any color
- hole punch
- craft beads
- craft feathers
- color markers
- scissors
- paint (optional)

## Instructions:

1. Begin by cutting out the center of the paper plate. Leave a rim of 2 inches all around the paper plate.
2. Use the hole punch to make holes around the rim of the paper plate, about ½ inch apart. You can paint your plate after this step if you want, or use markers to decorate!
3. Measure out 5-6 ft. of yarn. Tie one end of the yarn to any one of the holes on the rim of the paper plate.
4. Weave the yarn up, over, and all around the paper plate from one hole to the next one. You can make your pattern any way you like. Make sure to loop through each of the punched holes.
5. Add beads to the middle of the dream catcher with the yarn as you go through the holes. Simply slip them onto the yarn and continue with the next hole.
6. Once all of the holes are threaded with the yarn, tie a knot at the end of the yarn with the plate and the last hole.
7. Use the hole punch again to make 3 more holes in the paper plate at the bottom of the plate.
8. Cut 3 more pieces of yarn, each about 5 inches long.
9. Take each piece of yarn and tie them to the 3 punched holes at the bottom of the dream catcher.
10. Choose some beads to thread onto each of the 3 yarn pieces and then tie one feather to the end each of the hanging yarn pieces.
11. Lastly, make a piece of yarn the length you need to hang it on the wall. Punch one more hole to the top of your paper plate dream catcher and tie the yarn to it.
12. Hang your new Dream Catcher in a place where sweet dreams are welcome.

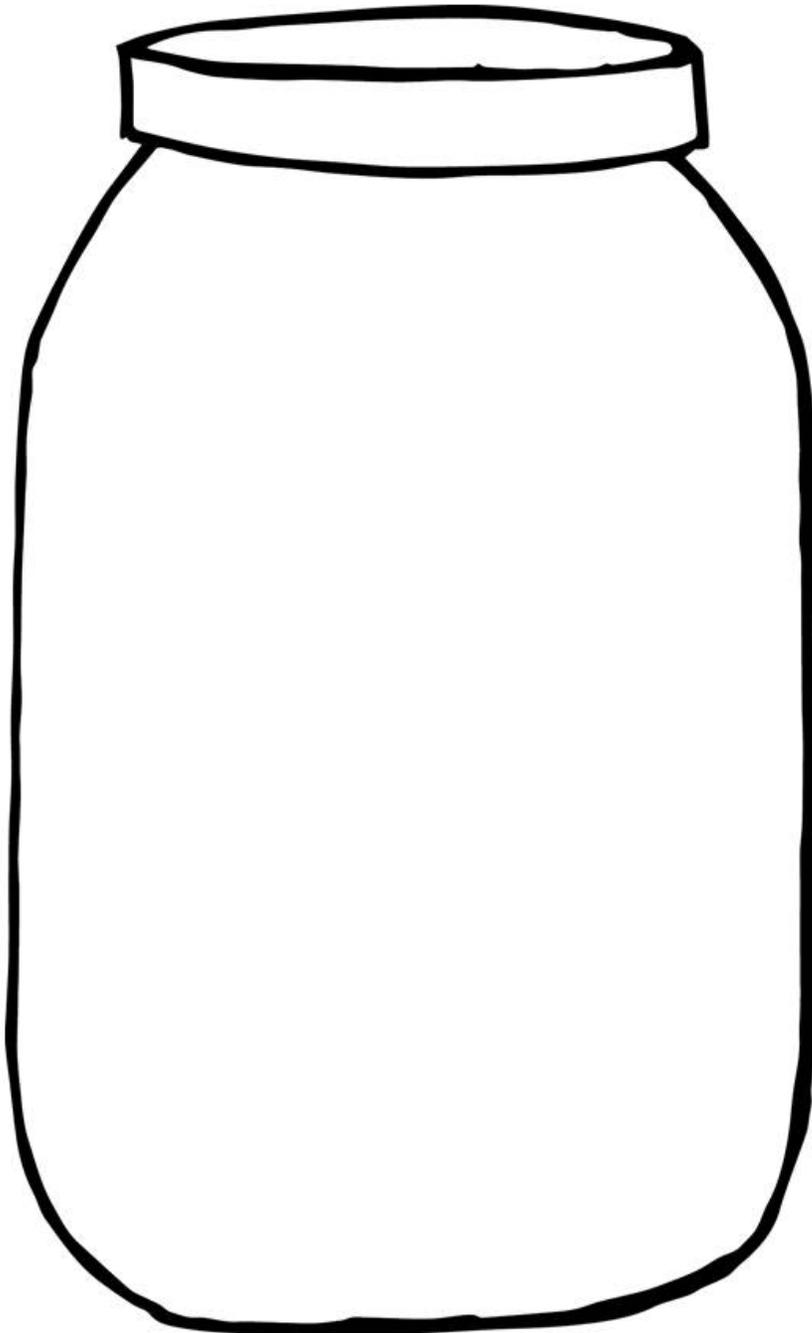


CREATIVITY

# Create a Dream Jar



As a classroom or family, make dream jars and fill them with pleasant dreams. You can use the template below, or use a physical jar—canning jars work well! You can use photos, magazine clippings, words, and drawings to fill the jar with your best dreams and wishes. When finished, display the jars in your classroom or home for everyone to see.



CREATIVITY

# Resources for Students & Adults

## Additional books by Roald Dahl:

Love *The B.F.G.*? Check out these books for the same fun and adventure!

*The Gremlins*, 1943

*James and the Giant Peach*, 1961

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, 1964

*Fantastic Mr. Fox*, 1970

*Danny, the Champion of the World*, 1975

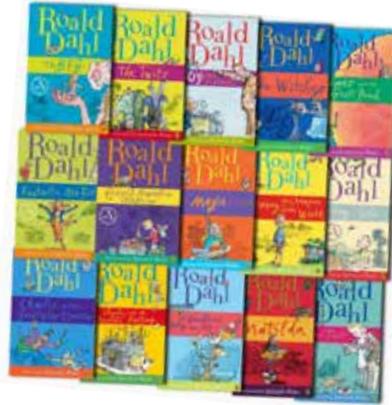
*The Enormous Crocodile*, 1978

*The Witches*, 1982

*Revolting Rhymes*, 1982

*Matilda*, 1988

*Rhyme Stew*, 1989



## Publications for Teachers and Parents:

*Organic Creativity in the Classroom: Teaching to Intuition in Academics and the Arts*, Written by Jane Piirto. Prufrock Press: 2013.

*Nurturing Creativity in the Classroom*, Edited by Ronald A. Beghetto and James C. Kaufman. Cambridge University Press: 2010.

*Signs of Change: New Directions in Theatre Education*, Written by Joan Lazarus. Intellect Ltd; Revised and Amplified Edition: 2012.

*Theatre for Change: Education, Social Action, and Therapy*, Written by Robert Landy and David T. Montgomery. Palgrave Macmillan: 2012.

*Play: How it Shapes the Brain and Invigorates the Soul*, Written by Stuart Brown and Christopher Vaughn. Harvard University Press: 2009.

## Websites:

<http://www.roalddahl.com/>: The official website of Roald Dahl is brimming with fun activities and interesting information about all of Dahl's works. Check out this website for more activities to do in your classroom or at home.

<http://wonderfuldahl.blogspot.com/>: This website contains in depth information on Roald Dahl including interviews, favorite recipes, and a comprehensive Gobblefunk dictionary!

<http://gws.ala.org/category/literature-languages>: The American Library Association has compiled a comprehensive database of the best literature and language websites just for children. Here students can learn more about new authors, other languages, how to be a better writer, and more. Perfect for budding young authors and readers!

<http://www.kidsreads.com/>: The website helps students, teachers, and parents find their next favorite book. Users can search reviews, authors, and special features to learn about the best new books for children.

<https://www.victoriatheatre.com/education-engagement/about-education/>: During the 2014-2015 Season, the Education & Engagement Department at Victoria Theatre Association hosted over 200 events and worked with over 100,000 members of the Dayton community. That's a lot! Stay up-to-date on exciting information like Summer Camps, Free Master Classes, Adult Education Opportunities, Backstage Tours, and more!

<http://www.americansforthearts.org/>: American's for the Arts is another great website full of research and information about the importance of Art in the classroom. Check out their amazing reports, and then use #ArtsTransform to share your personal stories.

## Victoria Fuse's Local Resource Discovery



The Dayton Metro Library will inform, inspire and enrich our community by linking individuals to information needed for personal success, providing access to a world of imagination and culture and offering convenient and comfortable spaces that enhance exploration and facilitate civic participation. We are the marketplace of the mind.

The Dayton Metro Library is a county-wide system of the Main Library in downtown Dayton, 20 branch libraries, and Outreach Services. We are one of the oldest and largest public library systems in Ohio, and are proud to say we rank among the best in the nation!

937.463.BOOK (2665)

<http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org>

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KIDS' NIGHT ON BROADWAY

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**DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER**

Dallas Children's Theater, one of the top five family theaters in the nation, serves over 250,000 young people from 100 zip codes, 40 cities, and 12 counties each year through its eleven main stage productions, touring, educational programming, and outreach activities. Since its opening in 1984, this award-winning theater has existed to create challenging, inspiring, and entertaining theater, which communicates vital messages to our youth and promotes an early appreciation for literature and the performing arts. As the only major organization in Dallas focusing on theater for youth and families, DCT produces literary classics, original scripts, folk tales, myths, fantasies, and contemporary dramas that foster multicultural understanding, confront topical issues, and celebrate the human spirit. For more information about Dallas Children's Theater, please visit <http://www.dct.org/>.



**HAPPY 150<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY  
VICTORIA THEATRE!**

Did you know that on January 1, 2016, The Victoria Theatre turned 150! All year long we are celebrating and we need your help! We are collecting stories from patrons about how attending shows at the Victoria Theatre impacted their lives. If you've been inspired by a Discovery Performance over the years, we want to hear it! Please contact Elaine Stoughton at 937-228-7591, ext. 3039 for information on how to share your story!

**DON'T FORGET**

All schools that receive scholarships for a show and/or transportation are asked and encouraged to create thank-you letters or cards for our sponsors. Please address your students' thank-you notes to:

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