

Inspiring Dahl – Comprehension

These questions are based upon the text *Inspiring Dahl* on page 13. Read the text and use this to help you answer the questions below.

1. Find and copy the 3 adjectives used in the first paragraph.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2. Why has the author chosen to use these words?

3. True or false? Mark found school easy when he was younger.

true

☐

false

☐

4. Give one reason why Mark did not find school easy when he was younger.

5. Underline the 2 phrases or sentences in the text that show why the nickname 'Book Worm' is a suitable name for Mark.

However, I am now known as the 'Book Worm' (which I love) and I read every chance that I can. My teacher is always telling me to put my book away in my bag and read it again during the next break. Sometimes they don't notice me and I read all lesson.

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6. What tells you that Mark enjoyed reading James and the Giant Peach?

7. What does Mark not want Roald Dahl to tell his mum?

8. What are the name of Mark's sister's favourite characters?

9. What three things has Mark done so far with his first book?

10. Number the pieces of information below to put them in the correct order.

Mark doesn't want his mum to discover he reads in lessons without his teachers seeing.

Mark has become addicted to reading.

Mark asks Roald Dahl how he plans and writes stories.

The letter is the first Mark has written to an author.

Mark's sister thinks a character from Fantastic Mr Fox is based on their neighbour.

Mark couldn't understand why he had to read.

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Inspiring Dahl

18th July 1982

Dear Roald Dahl,

I am writing to thank you from the bottom of my heart for writing such entertaining and remarkable stories. You certainly deserve this fan letter. As a matter of fact, this is the first letter to an author that I have ever written. Ever since reading your first book *The Gremlins*, I have become addicted to reading. I think it's just terrific – certainly my favourite so far! Since then, I have read more of your books and have loved them all.

My name is Mark and I am 12 years old. I found school difficult when I was younger and couldn't understand why my teachers and parents made me read every night. I think now, that if I had been introduced to your stories earlier, reading each night would have been a joy. However, I am now known as the 'Book Worm' (which I love) and I read at every chance that I can. My teacher is always telling me to put my book away in my bag and read it again during the next break. Sometimes they don't notice me and I read all lesson. It's great! Please don't tell my mum though!

The main reason for me writing to you is that I would love to become a children's author, just like you, and I would love some tips on what makes a great story that people want to read. Where do you get your inspiration from? How do you plan each story? How do you create the plot? How do your characters evolve?

I absolutely love *James and the Giant Peach*. How amazing that so many book lovers call this their all time favourite (well, they do in my school). It gripped me from start to finish. What a magical and fascinating journey that James goes on. No wonder it was your first classic novel.

My mum wanted me to tell you that her favourite is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She tries to read it to my little sister every night. I think that she can even retell it without looking at the words. The Oompa-Loompas make her giggle every time she reads about them. My mum has successfully added another follower to your fan club. My sister loves *Fantastic Mr Fox* best of all. She thinks that Boggis, Bunce and Bean are hilarious and believes that one of the characters is based on the grumpy old man who lives at the end of our road. She won't tell me which one though!

I have a few ideas for my first book and I have begun to make a plan just like my teacher has taught me. There are three main characters (one young boy, based on a boy I used to know and two animals that he meets on his magical journey). I have attached my notes to this letter for you to have a look at (if you get chance).

Please write back to me, I would really appreciate your insightful advice in the start of my journey to becoming an exciting and mesmerising author just like you.

Yours sincerely,

Mark

Monday – Word Families

1. Combine the root word with the correct suffix to complete the sentences.

Megan _____ skipped to school because she was excited for her trip to the seaside.

When Sam opened his presents, he was the _____ boy in the world.

Alexia's face beamed with _____ when she heard the good news.

root word	suffix
happy	-ness -ly -est

2. Underline the words that belong to the same word family. What is the root word?

Joshua enjoyed using his new pen to complete his homework because he had worked hard to get his pen licence.

Cara found the gaming guide useful and she easily beat her high score.

Kevin was overjoyed when his bike was fixed as he used it every day.

3. Circle the four incorrect words in the passage.

Hattie lovely to cook with her dad. She liked suggestion different meals they could prepare and her favourite thing to make was nachos. Her dad usually let her eat some leftover cheese while the nachos were heating up, even though their food would soon be readiness. While dad serving the nachos, Hattie chose a film they could both watch.

Write the words using the correct suffix so the sentences make sense.

Tuesday – Words Ending in '-sure', '-ture' or '-cher'

1. Which sentence has the correct spelling of the underlined word?

A. My favourite wild creacher is an African elephant, due to its loyalty to other elephants in its herd.

B. My favourite wild creature is an African elephant, due to its loyalty to other elephants in its herd.

4. Rewrite the sentence below and correct the spelling mistakes.

Car drivers have to regularly check the air presture in their tyres, as if it gets too low, they run the risk of getting a punccher.

2. Match the start of each word to the correct spelling of the full word.

Start

Full Word

vou

voucher

vouture

depar

departure

deparcher

plea

pleature

pleasure

5. Create your own multi-clause sentence using one word from each column in the word bank. Include at least two adjectives in your sentence.

pleasure

creacher

moischer

researcher

Hint: some of the words in the word bank are spelt incorrectly!

3. Complete the sentence using the correct word from the word bank below.

My elderly grandma, who can't chew very well, has to wear _____ to eat with as the dentist took all her teeth out a long time ago.

denchers

dentures

6. Lena thinks she has written her sentence correctly. Is she correct? How do you know?



I'm excited about our next class advencher as we will be exploring our local area.

Wednesday – Using Suffixes

1. Use your knowledge of suffixes to complete the table below.

root word	root word + suffix
hazard	
complete	
	outrageous
final	
	preacher
	operation
nerve	
	composure
discuss	

2. Underline any words which do not have the correct suffix in the sentences below.

The car technition usualy repairs tyre punctures at the garage.

The famoose mathematician humblee received his award.

The informacian advised that the petition needed twenty thousand signachers to be accepted by the local government.

There was a miscommunication between the transportacian company and the manufacturers.

3. Benjamin and Ruby have each written a sentence including a suffix. Who has used a suffix correctly? Explain your answer.



Benjamin

The polition needed to order furnicher for his new office immediately.

Having an adventure in a mountainus region is not a decision to be taken lightly.



Ruby

Thursday – Finding -tion in Text

Find all of the -tion sounds in the text below and underline them.

Highlight any other words that sound the same, like -sion, in a different colour.

Wanda the witch loved making potions; she was quite the expert! Anything you wanted, Wanda could come up with a concoction for you.

One day, Clara, Wanda's cat, was sitting in her favourite basket drinking milk and eating a portion of fish. Wanda gazed at her. "How I wish you could talk so that we could have a conversation," she thought to herself. But this wish could come true; she was the queen of magic potions after all!

Wanda gathered together a collection of ingredients: hair from a wizard's beard, the spots of a toad, slug slime, a gnome's toe nails, and 100ml of milk (which she measured out with precision).

With great caution, Wanda mixed the ingredients together whilst muttering a witchy chant. At last, the potion was ready! Clara seemed a little confused, but happily lapped up the mixture. With an explosion of smoke and an almighty squeal, Clara began to speak!

And from that day on, Wanda and Clara spent their days chatting away like the best of friends.

Thursday – Creative Writing Challenge

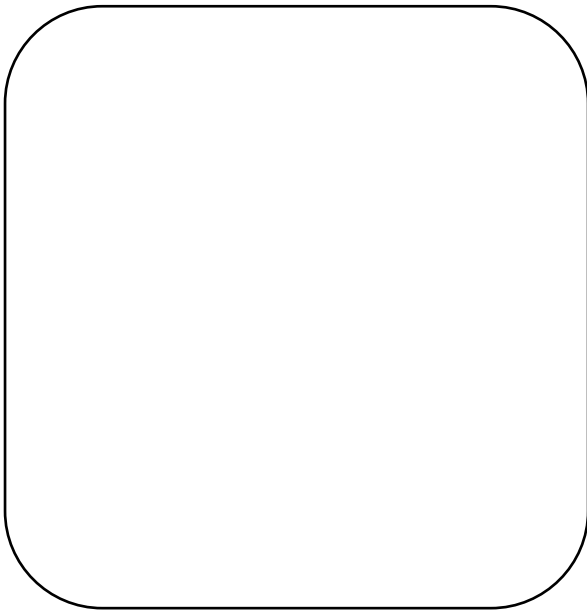
You find a glass bottle washed up on the sand. Inside the bottle is a piece of rolled up paper. You open up the paper to find a message. Write the message below.

What does it say?

Who sent it?

Why did they send it?

On the message is a map directing you to some treasure. Draw the treasure map and then write some instructions on how to find the treasure.



Word Bank

interest

surprise

describe

scroll

follow

peculiar

probably

difficult

pirate

compass

important

favourite

enough

shipwreck

various