

BFG, The

Sophie is an orphan who mistakenly sees a Big Friendly Giant (BFG) who whisks her away to his home. There she learns about how the other giants eat “human beans”, including children, and vows to stop them with her elaborate plan that includes the BFG, his dream potions and the Queen of England.

CURRICULUM FIT

Does this resource address the prescribed learning outcomes for this BC curriculum?

Extensively

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

Literature circles, whole class, read aloud/discussion.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Multiculturalism:

There are references to nationalities and parts of the world people live and how they taste to giants. For example, the Greeks taste greasy and the Turks taste like turkey while humans from Panama taste like hats and people from Jersey taste like woolly cardigans.

Violence:

A fight between the giants toss the BFG around, throw rocks, kick him and call him names. In the end the giants are caught, captured and are left to live on display in a pit in London.

Ethical:

The ethics behind making the giants live in a pit on display with nothing to eat but snozzcumbers (a disgusting vegetable) as a punishment for eating children and “human beans” can be discussed.

Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?

Extensively

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS COMMENTS:

The harsh treatment of the BFG by the other giants is in context and can easily be compared to how students treat each other.

GENERAL CONTENT

PERSPECTIVES:

International

NOVEL

AUDIENCE:

Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?

Extensively

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?

Extensively

Is the content of particular interest to male students?

Extensively

Is the content of particular interest to female students?

Extensively

LITERARY MERIT

Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?

Moderately

Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?

Extensively

Does the text provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?

Extensively

To what degree is this text stylistically rich?

Extensively

PLOT DESCRIPTION:

Sophie is an orphan who mistakenly sees a Big Friendly Giant (BFG) who whisks her away to his home. There she learns about how the other giants eat “human beans”, including children, and vows to stop them with her elaborate plan that includes the BFG, his dream potions and the Queen of England.

RELATED COMMENTS:

The BFG is a compassionate, kind and gentle giant who captures good dreams with butterfly nets and gives them to children at night. The made-up language that the BFG employs is whimsical and fun to decipher. Although complete gibberish, the reader is able to understand each meaning and intention with surprising depth. This layer gives the BFG a subtle complexity that can be discussed with students as each word is deliberate and carefully chosen to convey the giant’s naive, and tender innocence.

GENRE:

- Adventure
- Fantasy

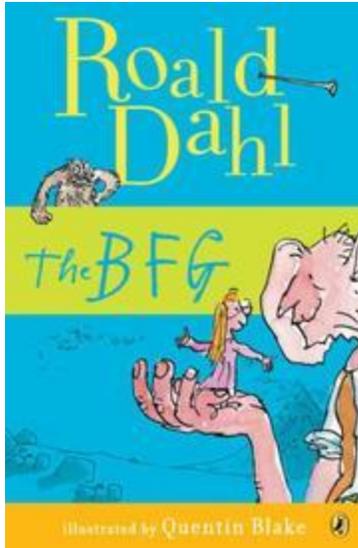
LITERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Rich Characterization
- Well-developed themes
- Effective figurative language
- Point of view

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

READABILITY:

- At intended grade level(s)

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Recommended Grades & Subjects/Courses

5-6

Evaluation/Record Entry Date

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Subject

English Language Arts

ID

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