

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