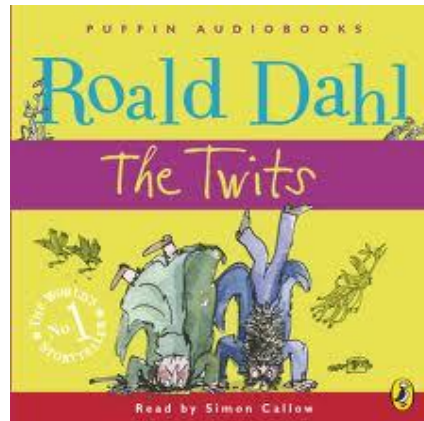


The Twits writing activities

Task 1: Look at the Front Cover

Write a prediction of what you think will happen in the story. Only use the front cover to help you. Try and give reasons for your predictions, for example, 'I predict that there will be two old people who enjoy gymnastics because on the front cover there is a man and a woman with some grey in their hair, doing handstands!



Task 2: Read Chapter 1. Then re-write Chapter 1

In your own words rewrite the first chapter. Think about the characters, settings and events. How much of the story language from the chapter can you remember and use in your writing? Can you make it even better by using some really great description?

Task 3: Read from Chapter 1 up to the end of the Chapter called 'The Frog' (p15). Imagine you are the frog!

The poor frog! Stuck in a bed with Mrs. Twit. How do you think he felt? First write a list of questions you'd like to ask the frog. Then create a dialogue between journalists and the frog.



Task 4: Read to end of p18. Create a revolting recipe!

Eurgh! Mr. Twit did NOT like worm spaghetti. Can you write him a recipe for a tastier dish? Or if you don't think he deserves it, perhaps you'll choose to create him an even more revolting dish...

Make sure you write a list of ingredients and a method (instructions).

Method

1. **Children:** Squeeze all the sausage meat out of the sausage skins into a large bowl and add the mince. Tip all the rest of the meatball ingredients, except the olive oil, into the bowl and season with black pepper then squish everything together through your hands until completely mixed. Keep an eye on younger children to make sure they don't taste any of the raw mix.
2. **Children:** Roll the meatball mix into walnut-sized balls and place them on a plate - this is a job children as young as 2 can help with and a great job to help teach older children basic division.
3. **Grown ups:** While the children are rolling the meatballs make the sauce. Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Add the courgette and garlic and cook for 5 mins until soft and mushy. Stir in the tomato puree, sugar and vinegar leave for 1 min then tip in the tomatoes and simmer for 5 mins. If your children like courgettes then you can leave the sauce chunky. But if, like mine, they hate courgettes then blitz the sauce with a hand blender - either way continue to simmer sauce gently while you cook the meatballs. If your child is confident with heat, from 7+ they can cook the sauce with supervision.
4. **Grown ups:** Heat the oil in a large frying pan and, working in batches, brown the meatballs on all sides then pop them into the sauce - continue to simmer the sauce for 15 mins, stirring very gently until the meatballs are cooked through. Serve with cooked spaghetti, extra grated Parmesan and a few torn basil leaves your child has picked and torn.

Ingredients

FOR THE MEATBALLS

300g good quality pork sausages
(about 4 large or 8 chipolatas)
500g lean beef mince
1 small onion, coarsely grated
1 carrot, finely grated
1 tbsp dried oregano
50g Parmesan, finely grated,
plus extra to serve
1 medium egg
1 tbsp olive oil

FOR THE TOMATO SAUCE

1 tbsp olive oil
1 courgette, coarsely grated
3 garlic cloves, finely grated
1 tbsp tomato purée
pinch caster sugar
splash red wine vinegar
2 x 400g tins chopped tomatoes

Task 5: Complete the book. Write a playscript

Choose a chapter to turn into a play. Imagine that your play will be performed in front of a huge audience. How will you make sure it's exciting to watch?

The Twits - An adaptation for stage by David Woods

Characters: Mr and Mrs Twit and the four Muggle-Wumps.

Mr Twit: (a frustrated shout of rage) Ooooooh! (He runs towards the caravan, shaking his fists at the birds)

The birds fly up a little, then land back on the roof, twittering.

I'll wipe that silly laugh off your beaks! I'll get you, you feathery frumps! I'll wring your necks, the whole lot of you. I'll have you bubbling in the Bird Pie pot before this day is out!

Mrs Twit: Huh! Promises, promises.

Mrs Twit strives to think of an idea. Suddenly ...

Mr Twit: I've got it! A great idea. We'll both go into town right away and we'll each buy ... a gun! How's that?

Mrs Twit: Brilliant! We'll buy those big shotguns that spray out fifty bullets or more with each bang!

Mr Twit: Perfect!

He notices the Muggle-Wumps, who are no longer upside down, but standing watching. Mr Twit approaches the cage.

And you lot. Upside down and jump to it. One on top of the other!

Mrs Twit: (Joining him) Quick! Get on with it or you'll feel my stick!

The Muggle-Wumps struggle back into upside down positions.

Task 6: Once you finish the book, try to answer these questions:

1. What problem does a man with a hairy face have?
combing his beard eating politely washing his face getting bits out of his hair
2. Where did Mr Twit have hair on his face?
ear-holes nostrils eyes nose forehead
3. Why do you think Roald Dahl called his character Mr Twit?
4. How often did Mr Twit wash his face?
once a week twice a month never often on a Monday
5. Would you like to sit opposite Mr Twit while he ate his food? Why/Why not?
6. Write 3 adjectives that describe Mr Twit.

7. Draw Mr Twit.

Task 7: Read the chapters Mrs Twit and The Glass Eye (p6-11) and answer the questions.

1. Does Mrs Twit have a hairy face?
YES NO
2. What caused Mrs Twit to become ugly?
Mr Twit her childhood horrid people ugly thoughts
3. Why do you think Roald Dahl thinks 'that a person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly'?
4. Why did Mrs Twit carry a walking stick?

she found walking painful so she could hit things her doctor
told her to

5. What was special about one of Mrs Twit's eyes?

6. Write 3 adjectives that describe Mrs Twit.

7. Draw Mrs Twit.

Task 8: Read the chapters *The Glass eye* & *The Frog* (p9-13) and answer the questions.

1. Is Mrs Twit's glass eye able to come out and go back in her eye socket again?

YES NO

2. What does Mrs Twit do with her glass eye that morning?

pop it out and back in again put it in Mr Twit's beer roll it across
the table

3. What was Mr Twit plotting when Mrs Twit put her eye in his drink?

4. Write 3 adjectives that describe how Mr Twit jumped.

5. What did Mr Twit put in Mrs Twit's bed?

6. Why did Mr Twit tell Mrs Twit that a *Giant Skillywiggler* had '*teeth like screwdrivers*'?

7. Why do you think the frog was having a good time?

8. Write three words to describe how Mrs Twit felt when the frog was on her face?

9. Draw the frog sleeping happily on Mrs Twit's pillow.