

BOOK THEMES:

- Unlikely friendship
- Celebrating differences

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- To use creative vocabulary
- To celebrate the differences in others



INTRODUCTION:

NOTE: Some readers may find the creative vocabulary used by the BFG difficult to decode. For their benefit, it is important to ensure that they hear the extract read aloud before they begin the first task.

Read aloud the two 'SNOZZCUMBERS' extracts to the class. Before you begin, ask the children to listen very carefully to the vocabulary that is being used. What do they notice? What is different about the BFG's language? Even though he wasn't speaking 'proper' English, did they generally understand what he meant?

TASK ONE: WONDERCRUMP WORDSPOTTER

Write the words 'disgusturous' and 'wondercrump' on the board. Would the children be able to find these words in an English dictionary? No, they would not! Tell the children you are going to conduct an experiment. You want to see if they know what 'disgusturous' means, even though it is not in the English language. Ask them to vote for one of two options for its meaning: something **GOOD**, or something **BAD**. Repeat the process for 'wondercrump'.

HOW CURIOUS! Even though these words are not in the English language, the class seemed to understand their meaning. Can the children continue the experiment by identifying the meanings of even more of the BFG's vocabulary?

Distribute copies of the 'Snozzcumbers' extracts to the children and ask them to work in pairs to read through and identify words that have **positive** and **negative** meanings. As they find the words, they should record them in the table provided on the **WONDERCRUMP WORDSPOTTER** worksheet (see resources).

DIFFERENTIATION: Challenge more able children to fill in the second **WONDERCRUMP WORDSPOTTER** worksheet, which asks them to identify the **word class** as well as whether the word has a positive or negative meaning.



TASK TWO: WIGGLISH WORDSMITHS

Choose children to read out samples of the positive and negative words that they found in the extracts. How did the children know which words meant something good, and which ones meant something bad? Draw out that Roald Dahl is using parts of words that we may recognize (such as '**disgusting**' and '**dangerous**') to create new words that mean something similar to the original ones. He is inventing **synonyms**!

Tell the children that their next task is to become **wordsmiths**, just like Roald Dahl. Using the **WIGGLISH WORDSMITH** worksheet (see resources), they will take parts of existing words in the English language and recombine them to create new and exciting vocabulary.

TASK THREE: CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

Divide the children into groups and provide each group with a large piece of paper. Ask them to imagine that they are the BFG. When he speaks and his words come out muddled up, how does that make him feel inside? Set the children a short time limit to write down as many feelings as they can on the piece of paper. Choose groups to share some of the feelings they came up with.

Now turn the piece of paper over. When Sophie tells the BFG that she thinks he speaks beautifully, how do his feelings change? Again, ask the groups to write down feelings, and then choose some to share.

Discuss with the children that the BFG felt **different** because of the way he spoke, and that made him feel sad. However, when Sophie praised the BFG's way of speaking, he felt really good about himself.

Give each group a **CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES** scenario card (see resources). Each card describes a Roald Dahl character who is **different** in some way. Ask each group to role-play what they could do or say to the person on the card to help them to feel that their difference is a **positive** thing.

PLENARY:

Ask the children to imagine that they are in the BFG's cave in Sophie's place. What would they say to help the BFG to **celebrate being different**? Choose children to **share their suggestions**.

EXTRACT TWO

From Chapter Eight: Snozzcumbers

The BFG was still holding the awesome snozzcumber in his right hand, and now he put one end into his mouth and bit off a huge hunk of it. He started crunching it up and the noise he made was like the crunching of lumps of ice.

'It's filthing!' he spluttered, speaking with his mouth full and spraying large pieces of snozzcumber like bullets in Sophie's direction. Sophie hopped around on the table-top, ducking out of the way.

'It's disgusting!' the BFG gurgled. 'It's sickable! It's rotsome! It's maggotwise! Try it yourself, this fousome snozzcumber!'

'No, thank you,' Sophie said, backing away.

'It's all you're going to be guzzling around here from now on so you might as well get used to it,' said the BFG. 'Go on, you snipsy little winkle, have a go!'

Sophie took a small nibble. 'Ugggggggggh!' she spluttered. 'Oh no! Oh gosh! Oh help!' She spat it out quickly. 'It tastes of frogskins!' she gasped. 'And rotten fish!'

'Worse than that!' cried the BFG, roaring with laughter. 'To me it is tasting of clockcoaches and slime-wanglers!'

'Do we really have to eat it?' Sophie said.

'You do unless you is wanting to become so thin you will be disappearing into a thick ear.'

'Into *thin* air,' Sophie said. 'A thick ear is something quite different.'

Once again that sad winsome look came into the BFG's eyes. 'Words,' he said, 'is oh such a twitch-tickling problem to me all my life. So you must simply try to be patient and stop squibbling. As I am telling you before, I know exactly what words I am wanting to say, but somehow or other they is always getting squiff-squiddled around.'

'That happens to everyone,' Sophie said.

'Not like it happens to me,' the BFG said. 'I is speaking the most terrible wigglish.'

'I think you speak beautifully,' Sophie said.

'You do?' cried the BFG, suddenly brightening. 'You really do?'

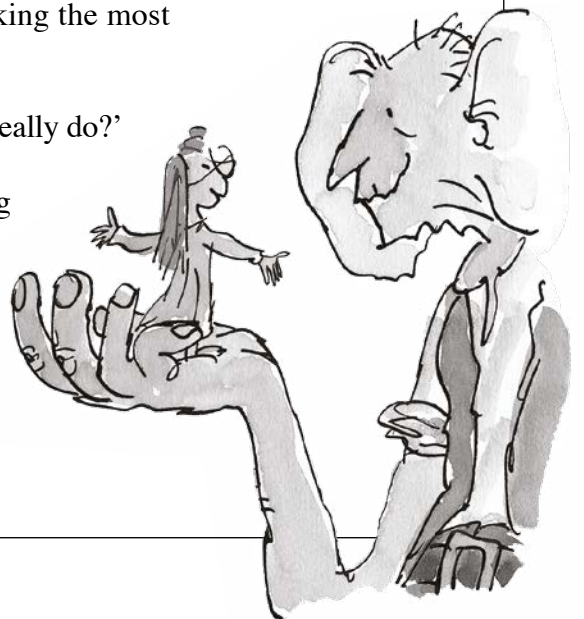
'Simply beautifully,' Sophie repeated.

'Well, that is the nicest present anybody is ever giving me in my whole life!' cried the BFG. 'Are you sure you is not twiddling my leg?'

'Of course not,' Sophie said. 'I just love the way you talk.'

'How wondercrump!' cried the BFG, still beaming.

'How whoopsey-splunkers! How absolutely squiffing! I is all of a stutter.'



EXTRACT ONE

From Chapter Eight: Snozzcumbers

‘Here is the repulsant snozzcumber!’ cried the BFG, waving it about. ‘I squoggle it! I mispise it! I dispunge it! But because I is refusing to gobble up human beans like the other giants, I must spend my life guzzling up icky-poo snozzcumbers instead. If I don’t, I will be nothing but skin and groans.’

‘You mean skin and *bones*,’ Sophie said.

‘I *know* it is bones,’ the BFG said. ‘But please understand that I cannot be helping it if I sometimes is saying things a little squiggly. I is trying my very best all the time.’ The Big Friendly Giant looked suddenly so forlorn that Sophie got quite upset.

‘I’m sorry,’ she said. ‘I didn’t mean to be rude.’

‘There never was any schools to teach me talking in Giant Country,’ the BFG said sadly.

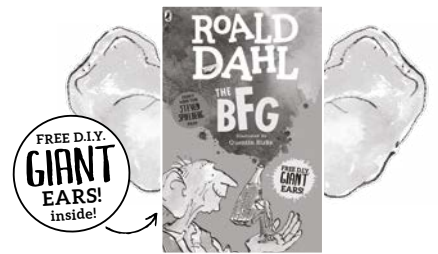
‘But couldn’t your mother have taught you?’ Sophie asked.

‘My *mother!*’ cried the BFG. ‘Giants don’t have mothers! Surely you is knowing *that*.’

‘I did *not* know that,’ Sophie said.



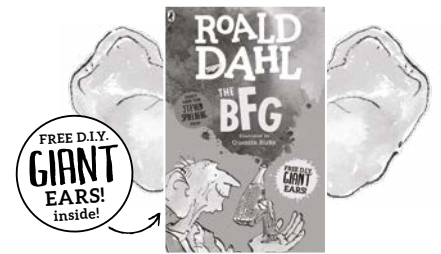
WONDERCRUMP WORDSPOTTER



The *BFG* has many **WEIRD** and **WONDERCRUMP** words in his vocabulary! Some of them have **positive** (good) meanings and some have **negative** (bad) meanings.

How many of them can you spot in the extracts? Can you work out which of them are verbs, which are nouns and which are adjectives? **Record the words you spot in the table below:**

	Positive Words	Negative Words
Adjectives		
Nouns		
Verbs		



SOPHIE

A little girl who is different from lots of other children because she has grown up in a village orphanage with no parents.

Matilda

A little girl who is different from her family because she loves reading books – her family despise them. She is also different from her classmates because she can spell very long words and solve extremely complicated maths problems in her head.



JAMES TROTTER

A little boy who feels different and lonely because he has not got any friends at all. He lives with his nasty Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge on the top of an enormous hill. He has no toys to play with and no books to read, and no other children are ever invited to come to play.



Charlie

A little boy who is different from his friends at school because his family is extremely poor. All four of his grandparents live with him and his parents, and they all have nothing to eat for dinner except cabbage soup.

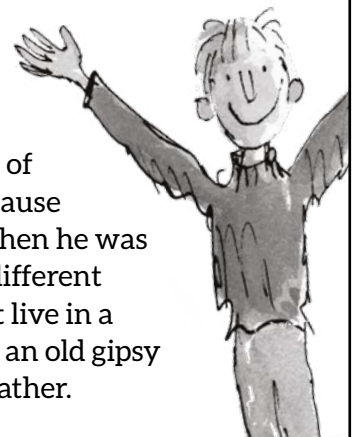


MR HOPPY

A very shy old man who feels different because he finds it extremely hard to talk to other people. He is in love with his neighbour but cannot express his feelings.

DANNY

A little boy who is different from lots of other children because his mother died when he was a baby. He is also different because he doesn't live in a house – he lives in an old gypsy caravan with his father.



WONDERCRUMP WORDSPOTTER

FREE D.I.Y.
**GIANT
EARS!**
inside!



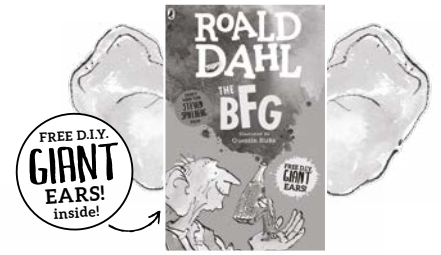
THE BFG has many **WEIRD** and **WONDERCRUMP** words in his vocabulary! Some of them have **POSITIVE** (good) meanings and some have **NEGATIVE** (bad) meanings.

How many of them can you spot in the extracts?
Record the words you've spotted in the table below.



Positive Words	Negative Words

WIGGLISH WORDSMITH



In *The BFG*, Roald Dahl takes parts of words we recognize and puts them together to make new words - with some very funny results!

Use the table below to make some new words for yourself. You could use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you to come up with some real **WHOOPEY-SPLUNKERS!**



First Word	+	Second Word	=	New Word!
Wiggly	+	English	=	Wigglish
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
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