

# The BFG

## **Activity Pack**

### ***Show-related activities for teachers and parents***

#### **“I’m dreaming....I’m dreaming...”**

Ask the child/children if they have had any good dreams that they can remember. Can they invent a dream for the BFG to catch that they think other children would like. Ask the children to write down the dream as if they are dreaming it. They can start with “I’m dreaming.... I’m dreaming...”

What kind of dream is it? Is it a phizzwizard, a dumhinger, a ringbeller or a whoppsy? Or perhaps it is a whole new kind of dream that needs a new name?

#### Extensions

- What would their dream look like? Dreams often have different elements mixed together. Encourage the children to create a picture of their dreams by drawing with different materials eg. pencil, crayon, charcoal, chalk, oil pastels or paints and adding collage so that the dream has different textures.
- Dream jars. Ask the children to imagine the BFG has caught their dream. Can they make a dream to go in a jar? To make a dream jar you will need:
  - One jar per child
  - Sticky tape
  - Material scraps, cotton, foam, card
  - PVA glue and glitter (optional)

Think about what colours and textures might be in your dream. Choose some materials, cut them into strips and use sticky tape to stick them to the inside of the lid of the jar. Children could also draw elements of their dream eg. objects or people in the dream and thread them onto cotton or fishing wire. Stick the thread/fishing wire to the lid so that when the lid is screwed back onto the jar all the bits of the dream hang down into the jar.

## Wordsearch

'Snozzcumbers' are slimy, pongy, disgusting vegetables but there are lots of really tasty vegetables that can be eaten raw or cooked. Now that the BFG has made friends with Sophie and the Queen, perhaps he could take some other kinds of foods home with him.

Ask the children to see if they can find all these different types of vegetables in the Wordsearch.

Turnip, Peas, Beans, Parsnip, Marrow, Cabbage, Carrots, Sprouts, Swede, Pepper, Broccoli

T	A	C	A	B	B	A	G	E	R
U	K	I	L	O	C	C	O	R	B
R	B	J	S	X	T	B	O	N	N
N	Z	A	M	D	V	E	J	Y	S
I	E	F	M	G	L	A	S	R	T
P	Z	P	A	R	S	N	I	P	U
X	P	D	R	R	A	S	V	T	O
H	C	A	R	R	O	T	S	G	R
Q	X	C	O	R	E	P	P	E	P
E	D	E	W	S	F	E	O	E	S

Answers:

T	A	C	A	B	B	A	G	E	R
U	K	I	L	O	C	C	O	R	B
R	B	J	S	X	T	B	O	N	N
N	Z	A	M	D	V	E	J	Y	S
I	E	F	M	G	L	A	S	R	T
P	Z	P	A	R	S	N	I	P	U
X	P	D	R	R	A	S	V	T	O
H	C	A	R	R	O	T	S	G	R
Q	X	C	O	R	E	P	P	E	P
E	D	E	W	S	F	E	O	E	S

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### Wordbuilding

Rid	lopp	ingly	rara
Flum	zigg	erty	whoo
Guzz	fogg	ugging	scow
Bizz	crink	omping	sooper
Slog	stonk	idly	hup
Jung	plump	antering	flep

Roald Dahl loved to invent new words when he was writing. Ask the children to use the nonsense words in the table above to create their own new words. They could start by taking a word from each column and joining them up eg. the first row would create 'Ridloppinglyrara'. Can they pick words from different rows and columns and fit them together? They could try just two words at a time, then three, then four.

#### Extensions/Alternatives

- Once the children have created their own words can they invent meanings for them?
- If the children have created new words and meanings can they write a speech for the BFG where he uses these words to describe something he has seen in Giant Country or when he visited England?
- Ask the children to create new words that have the following meanings using the table above or their own inventions.
  1. Fantastic
  2. Disgusting
  3. Amazing
  4. Hilarious
  5. Wonderful

#### Create your own BFG scenes



Ask the children to think about the characters they liked best in the play. Can they remember some of the scenes or conversations that happened between the BFG and Sophie?

Ask them to write a short script based on one of the scenes they have seen.  
For example:

1. Sophie is snatched from the orphanage
2. The BFG takes Sophie to his cave
3. Sophie and the BFG drink frobscottle
4. The giants come to the BFG's cave and Sophie hides in the snozzcumber.
5. Sophie and The BFG meet the Queen
6. Or a scene in the future eg. The BFG visits on Sophie's birthday.

Extension

- Ask the children to act out their short scenes or bring the scenes to life with puppets in their own puppet theatre.

**Make your own puppet theatre**



You will need:

1 cereal box, 4 plastic straws plus one for each puppet, masking tape, scissors, poster paint and paintbrushes, blu tack or plasticene, glue, a sharp pencil and printouts of the BFGs characters below.

(We have included pictures of some of the characters but the children could also draw other characters or parts of the BFG eg, the giant hand from the beginning of the play or the giant feet from when he is at Buckingham Palace).

The Puppet Theatre is made up of three sections, the backdrop, the floor cloth and the walls of the theatre and of course you need to make your puppets!

### **To make the backdrop**

Lay your box flat onto a piece of paper and draw round it with a pencil. Cut around the outline of the box and draw your design for the backdrop on this piece of paper. Think about the scene you have chosen and what the audience should be able to see at the back of the stage. Is it the BFG's cave, Buckingham Palace, Sophie's orphanage or somewhere else?

### **To make the floorcloth**

Place your box onto a new piece of paper. Mark the length of the box on the edge of this paper. Now take a drinking straw and place it at a right angle to the edge you have marked. Draw and cut out a rectangle that has the same length as your cardboard box and the same height as the length of a drinking straw.

### **To make the front and back walls of your puppet theatre**

1. Measure the width of the longest and thinnest side of your box. Mark a point halfway across the width at both ends of the box and draw a line to join up these marks, open out the flap at the top of the box and extend the line along this too. This will be your guideline for cutting the box in half. Draw guidelines on the three thin sides of the box and cut along them.
2. Take one half of the box and lay it flat. You now have one big rectangle with some cardboard flaps around the edges. You need to draw a slightly smaller rectangle inside the big rectangle. It should be 1 cm away from the edges of the big rectangle.
3. Carefully cut out the smaller rectangle without damaging it. Put some blu tack or plasticene under the card where one of the corners of the small rectangle is. Make holes on the line you have drawn by pushing a sharp pencil through the card into the plasticene or blu tack. When you have made a few holes use a scissors to push through the holes and cut along the line. Keep the small rectangle for later, the half box with the rectangle cut out will make the front wall of the theatre, the other half will make the back wall.
4. Lay both halves of your box flat on the table and use black poster paint to paint them black.
5. When the black paint on your half boxes has dried turn them over and paint the other side too. You don't need to paint the rectangular bit of the back wall as your backcloth will cover this.

6. Once all the paint is dry, fold the flaps in again and use masking tape to join the corners so that both half of your boxes take up a box shape again. Paint over the masking tape with black paint. The half with the smaller rectangle cut out will make the front wall of your puppet theatre – it represents what we call the proscenium arch in the theatre. The other half of the box will represent the back wall of the theatre. Glue the backdrop to the back wall of the theatre now.

### **Joining the front and back walls**

1. Take four straws and cover them by rolling them in a length of masking tape. Paint these black and when they are dry use them to join the front and back walls of the theatre by fixing them with masking tape to the inside corners of the box halves. Again you can paint over the masking tape with black paint.
2. Now put glue round the edges of the underside of the floor cloth and stick this to the bottom of the front and back walls and the lower side straws.

### **To make the puppets**

Take the small rectangle you have cut out. Decide which characters you are going to make and stick these onto the card rectangle. Then cut them out carefully, staying close to the edge of the drawings.

(Scale: There are two different sized 'Sophies'. If you are going to have a scene with Sophie and The Queen you'll have to use the larger Sophie and perhaps draw your own BFG feet. Also I have adjusted the scale to fit the puppet theatre I made. I used a Weetabix Box. If you're using a bigger cereal box you might want to adjust the size of the pictures on the computer before you print them out.)

For each puppet take a plastic straw, roll it in a strip of masking tape and paint it black. Then use a small piece of masking tape to stick it to the back of your puppet.

### **Tips on using puppets**

1. Find a voice for the puppet that is different to your own

2. When the puppet 'speaks' move the puppet in time with the words you are saying.
3. Make sure the puppet faces the audience all the time.
4. Try to get the puppet to look at the other puppets onstage and then back out to the audience again.
5. Always focus on the back of your puppet, don't look at the audience.





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Fleshlumper

Gizzard gulper

Bloodbotter



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The BFG

R1Ka

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Her Majesty  
the Queen

Dressed for  
breakfast at  
Buckingham Palace



The B.F.G.  
Puka  
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Bonecruncher



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Meatdripper



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Polka  
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