

# KEY MOTIVES OF CHILDHOOD IN ROALD DAHL'S WORKS

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**Annotation:** This article gives us information about Roald Dahl's portrayal of childhood in his works. It highlights key themes such as resilience, the power of the individual, the importance of friendship and family, and the darker side of childhood. Dahl's stories often transport readers to fantastical worlds, where children use their imagination to overcome challenges. They also showcase the resilience of young protagonists who face adversity with determination.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье представлена информация об изображении детства Роальдом Далем в его произведениях. В нем освещаются такие ключевые темы, как воображение, устойчивость, сила личности, важность дружбы и семьи, а также темная сторона детства. Рассказы Даля часто переносят читателей в фантастические миры, где дети используют свое воображение для преодоления трудностей. Они также демонстрируют стойкость молодых героев, которые решительно преодолевают трудности.

**Key words:** children's literature, childhood, imaginative, resilience, portrayal, fantastical.

Roald Dahl (1916–1990) was a British author renowned for his significant contributions to children's literature. His stories are celebrated for their wit, imagination, and ability to entertain both children and adults. Dahl's works often feature eccentric characters, dark humor, and imaginative storytelling, leaving a lasting legacy in children's literature. Roald Dahl had that magic touch that changed children's literature forever. Roald Dahl is the type of person that allows children to be taken into a new world and find out about themselves through books. Most kids' favorite author is undoubtedly Roald Dahl. Numerous of his publications rank among the most popular and extensively read works. Dahl's stories are meant for entertaining kids. From the first sentence to the book's last word, he manages to hold the reader's attention. He uses a child's imagination and writes from their point of view. Dahl creates characters that are larger than life and plots that are extremely focused. Dahl has a very distinct and silly way of writing. He uses a lot of wordplay in his stories and also creates new vocabulary for readers to explore. Dahl is also excellent at using words for the sound they make. He does a great job at giving the characters distinct voices and through his writing, children are able to know exactly how the character talks.

Roald Dahl is such a wonderful writer that has inspired so many children to love reading and I feel that his contribution to children's literature was an amazing one. Just think, if he never had children, we would have never learned the story of Charlie Bucket going to the Wonka Factory or about James and the Giant Peach. His stories were so catchy and fun that I truly believe his books will be enjoyed for many more years to come. In Roald Dahl's works, children often occupy a central role, embodying qualities that adults often lack. They are portrayed as imaginative, resourceful, and possessing a strong moral compass. Dahl's stories frequently feature children who challenge the status quo and defy adult authority, often leading to fantastical adventures.

The motive of childhood in Dahl's stories is multifaceted. It serves as a platform to explore themes of good versus evil, power dynamics, and the importance of individuality. Children are



depicted as pure and innocent, highlighting the corrupting influence of adult society. Through their struggles against oppressive adults or fantastical creatures, Dahl's child protagonists inspire young readers to embrace their imagination and stand up for what they believe. In Roald Dahl's works offer a unique perspective on childhood, often exploring themes of imagination, resilience, and the power of the individual. His stories frequently feature young protagonists who navigate fantastical worlds or confront real-world challenges, demonstrating the complexities and contradictions of growing up.

### **Key Motives of Childhood in Roald Dahl's Works:**

**Imagination and Escapism:** Dahl's stories often transport readers to imaginative realms, where the boundaries of reality are blurred. Children in his works frequently use their imaginations to overcome adversity or simply to find joy in everyday life.

**Resilience and Overcoming Adversity:** Many of Dahl's protagonists face significant challenges, whether it's dealing with neglectful or abusive adults, overcoming physical limitations, or battling fantastical villains. These characters demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination in the face of hardship.

**The Power of the Individual:** Dahl's stories often celebrate the power of the individual to make a difference, no matter how small or insignificant they may seem. Children in his works frequently challenge the status quo and fight for what they believe in.

**The Importance of Friendship and Family:** Strong bonds of friendship and family are central to many of Dahl's stories. These relationships provide support, comfort, and a sense of belonging for his young protagonists.

**The Dark Side of Childhood:** While Dahl's stories are often whimsical and fantastical, they also delve into darker themes, such as loss, loneliness, and the cruelty of adults. These darker elements add depth and complexity to his portrayal of childhood.

### **Specific Examples:**

**Matilda:** This story explores themes of intelligence, perseverance, and the power of imagination. Matilda uses her intelligence to overcome the challenges posed by her neglectful family and cruel headmistress, Miss Trunchbull.

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory:** This story celebrates the importance of kindness, generosity, and hard work. Charlie Bucket, a poor but kind-hearted boy, wins a golden ticket to Willy Wonka's magical chocolate factory.

**The Witches:** This story delves into the darker side of childhood, exploring themes of fear, paranoia, and the dangers of prejudice. A young boy must outsmart a coven of evil witches who plot to turn all children into mice.

By exploring these themes, the writer's works offer a rich and complex portrayal of childhood, capturing both the joys and challenges of growing up. His stories continue to resonate with readers of all ages, inspiring imagination, empathy, and a sense of wonder.

In conclusion, Roald Dahl's portrayal of childhood is a complex and multifaceted one. It is a world of wonder and imagination, of resilience and triumph, of individual power and collective strength. Through his unforgettable characters and captivating stories, Dahl continues to inspire and enchant readers of all ages, reminding us of the magic and potential that lies within every child.

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