

Childhood, Imagination, Innocence and Transformation in Roald Dahl's Select Works

Dr. Divyasree C

PhD in English

Kanchi Mamunivar Government Institute for Postgraduate Studies and Research
Affiliated to Pondicherry University
Puducherry- 605 008.

Abstract:

Roald Dahl was a British author, poet and screenwriter. He is famous for short stories and children's literature. Roald Dahl was born in Cardiff, located in Wales. Children's literature is also known as juvenile literature, and includes stories, magazines, poems and novels that created for children. This paper studies some of the author's critically acclaimed works.

Key Words: Roald Dahl, *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*.

I. Introduction

Roald Dahl was a British author, poet and screenwriter. He is famous for short stories and children's literature. Roald Dahl was born in Cardiff, located in Wales. Children's literature is also known as juvenile literature, and includes stories, magazines, poems and novels that created for children. Picture books which are a combination of visual and verbal narrative structures, also constitute children's literature. Young Adult Fiction, which is aimed at readers between the ages of twelve to eighteen also constitute children's literature. Fairy tales, which are short stories that involve magic and mythical creatures, come under children's literature. He is famous for his novels, *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory* and *Matilda*.

II. *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory*

Charlie And The Chocolate Factory is a children's novel by Roald Dahl. It was published in 1964. The protagonist of the novel is Charlie Bucket. Charlie encounters the chocolatier named Will Wonka. This novel has been adapted into film multiple times. Charlie Bucket is a young boy who is brought up in poverty. He lives with his four grandparents, mother and father. A chocolatier is someone who makes or sells chocolates. This novel has a media franchise, due to the production of video games and merchandise. The town where Charlie Bucket lives has a famous chocolate factory that is renowned worldwide. His grandfather is bedridden, and it is actually Charlie's grandfather who tells Charlie the story of Willy Wonka, the eccentric owner of the factory.

His grandfather tells Charlie that other chocolate makers were sending in spies under the disguise of employees in order to steal Willy Wonka's chocolate recipes. This makes Willy Wonka to shut the factory and disappear. Eventhough Willy Wonka does reopen the factory after a few years, the gates of the factory are still locked. In the newspaper, there is an announcement that anyone who finds the hidden five Golden tickets inside the Wonka Bars, can come on a tour of the factory. Childhood imagination, innocence and transformation are the main themes.

II. *Matilda*

Matilda is a children's novel by Roald Dahl. It was published in 1988. The titular protagonist is Matilda Wormwood, who has an uncaring mother and father. Miss Trunchbull is the headmistress of Matilda's school and is very controlling, strict and tyrannical, always doling out punishments. Matilda can be describe as a precocious child because she seems much more brilliant and emotionally mature for someone her age. Matilda is also a fantasy novel. The novel has been adapted into film and musicals.

Matilda was born in a Buckinghamshire village. She was born to Mr and Mrs Wormwood. Matilda is able to speak the age of one, and read when she is just three and a half years old. However, her parents do not acknowledge her brilliance and skills. They also emotionally abuse her. Matilda then goes to school and becomes friends with her teacher, Jennifer Honey. Jennifer Honey is shocked at Matilda's intellectual abilities. Miss Honey's aunt is revealed to be the headmistress, Miss Trunchbull. Childhood, imagination, innocence and transformation are the major themes.

REFERENCES:

1. Dahl, Roald. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: The Golden Edition*. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021.
2. *Matilda*. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2020.