



Roald Dahl Stories Lesson Ideas



Illustration Illumination
with Quentin Blake

TEACHER RESOURCE PACK

Illustration Illumination



Learn all about illustration from the awe-inspiring Quentin Blake with top tips for creating illuminating illustrations, and putting them into practice to draw a Roald Dahl character.

Learning Objective: To develop understanding of bringing a character to life through illustration

Learning Objective: To develop illustration skills through creating their own interpretation of a Roald Dahl character

Overview

Children will watch the draw-along video and develop their understanding of the steps involved in bringing a character to life through illustration. Using a description extract and top tips to help them, they will be challenged to draw one of Roald Dahl's characters.

For additional context, the teacher could invite children to share their knowledge about the story of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and read aloud an extract from describing Willy Wonka before they watch the video.

Children will benefit from watching the video through once so they can listen and engage with Quentin Blake's narrative as he draws, and then watching and drawing along for the second viewing.

The activities in this lesson are suitable for completing independently and support learning in:

ART & DESIGN

VISUAL LITERACY

Activities include:

1. Top Tips
2. Character description
3. Practise time
4. My Illustration

You will need:

- The video featuring the Willy Wonka draw-along
- Printed resources
- Drawing equipment including colouring pencils (or pens)



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Starter

Invite children to share what they thought of the illustration video. Was there anything they noticed about how Quentin Blake created Willy Wonka from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*? They might comment on the different steps he takes, starting with the face OR they may notice he does lots of drawings to get to the right one. Elicit that practice is really important with drawing, and having a process of steps to help you create an illustration can be really useful. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' way to draw something; everyone interprets things differently.

You could now read the extract from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* if you haven't already.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Task one

You will need **Resource 1: Illustration ingredients – top tips**. Just like Willy Wonka and all the marvellous recipes he keeps in his factory, Quentin Blake shared how he invents his illustrations. As a class, read through the top tips, based on Quentin Blake's draw-along. Ask children in pairs to discuss each one. Is there anything they notice or would like to share? What do they think are important things to remember when illustrating? Are there any other top tips they would add? Remind them that illustration is often a very personal expression. Invite them to think of a useful tip they have for drawing to share with their classmates.

Task two

Invite children to choose the character they would like to illustrate and read the corresponding extract using **Resource 2: Character descriptions**. Encourage them to underline anything that stands out to them in the description and make notes if they wish. Remind children that everyone will interpret the description in their own way, so it's best to work independently. Feed back as a class and ask them what key things they would focus on when illustrating the character.

Using **Resource 3: Practice time** children can now practice drawing their character, using their notes to help them and remembering the top tips they have learnt from Quentin Blake. Remind children that everyone interprets things differently, and it doesn't matter if they make a mistake or have uneven arms, like Quentin Blake's Willy Wonka did. That's why they're practicing!

Optional discussion activity – Appearances

Illustrations help us see what a character looks like and give us an idea of what that person is like through the use of colour, movement and expression. Invite children to think about what difference it makes to how we 'see' people if they are wearing a particular facial expression. Elicit that appearances can make people judge others in a certain way, even just through the look on their faces. Can they think of examples of this? This could be associating a smile with being a happy person or associating a frown with being angry. Can they recall a time when someone thought they were feeling a certain way but they actually were feeling the opposite on the inside? As an example, elicit that sometimes someone may look happy but actually they are sad on the inside. Why is it important not to judge people by their facial expression? Share ideas as a class and encourage children to think of ways to help them stop and think before they judge someone based on their appearance and facial expression.

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Task three

Invite children to now draw a final version of their character, using **Resource 4: My Illustration**. Give them plenty of time to do this and encourage them to refer to their practice drawings, the extract and top tips if they get stuck. Remind them to think about the character's clothing, expression, movement and use the extract and their knowledge of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to help.

Optional activity

Taking inspiration from Willy Wonka, inventor extraordinaire, children could invent their own Roald Dahl type character to illustrate with an accompanying description. They should use the top tips to help them and think about where a 'new' character might fit in to one of the Roald Dahl stories.

Plenary

Now it's time to celebrate their work! Invite children to share their illustrations. What did they find most challenging about drawing? What was the most useful tip from Quentin Blake's video that helped them? What other Roald Dahl character would they like to draw? Encourage children to celebrate each other's work, remembering that everyone interprets things differently and illustration is a personal expression.



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EXTRACT: CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Mr Wonka was standing all alone just inside the open gates of the factory. And what an extraordinary little man he was! He had a black top hat on his head. He wore a tail coat made of a beautiful plum coloured velvet. His trousers were bottle green. His gloves were pearly grey. And in one hand he carried a fine gold-topped walking cane. Covering his chin, there was a small, neat, pointed black beard – a goatee. And his eyes – his eyes were most marvellously bright. They seemed to be sparkling and twinkling at you all the time. The whole face, in fact, was alight with fun and laughter. And oh, how clever he looked! How quick and sharp and full of life! He kept making quick jerky little movements with his head, cocking it this way and that, and taking everything in with those bright twinkling eyes. He was like a squirrel in the quickness of his movements, like a quick clever old squirrel from the park.

**FIND THIS IN
CHAPTER 14 OF
CHARLIE AND
THE CHOCOLATE
FACTORY**

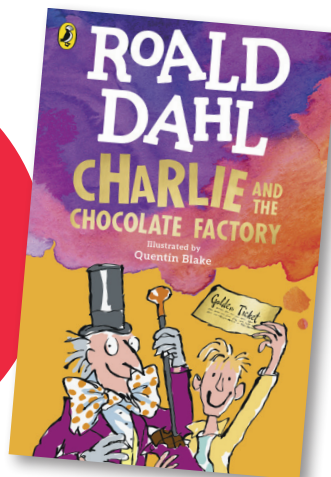


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RESOURCE 1: ILLUSTRATION INGREDIENTS – TOP TIPS

Quentin Blake shares lots of ideas in the draw-along. Illustrating is a bit like being an inventor; you have to find the right way to ‘invent’ the character whose description you are trying to bring to life on the page. These ideas make useful top tips to remember when you are illustrating.

TOP TIP 1

“As you draw people, you feel you come to know them, so that they are your own version of them”

It takes lots of practice to get to the right version of an illustration. So do lots and lots of drawings to get to the best version of your character

TOP TIP 2

“I always start quite near the top, with the face”

Start with the face to bring your character to life and work your way down!

TOP TIP 3

“Draw a ring for the eye, so you can show him looking in one direction or the other”

It’s useful to think about the expression on the character’s face and what direction the eyes are looking in! Are they smiling? Are they happy or sad? Are they looking to the left or to the right?

TOP TIP 4

“It doesn’t say in the book what kind of tie he wears; but I remember thinking a bow-tie would be nice”

Sometimes in a description, details are left out and it’s up to the reader to decide what they are. As an illustrator, you can choose what you think those details could be, from costume to colour!

TOP TIP 4

“I think that arm is shorter than the other one, but never mind!”

You don’t have to worry about making mistakes when you draw; your drawing does not have to be perfect!

Quentin Blake has illustrated all except one of Roald Dahl’s books so he’s had lots of practice! When you draw a character, you need to think about everything from clothing to what kind of character they are to what they’re wearing and how they’re moving.

Talk about these top tips with your classmates. Was there anything else you learned from watching the video?

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RESOURCE 2: CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Choose one of the characters below – you are going to illustrate them!

Read through the extract of the description of the character you want to illustrate.

As you read, underline anything that stands out and note anything that might be helpful for you to think about as you draw. What things will you focus on? Remember the illustration ingredients (top tips) Quentin Blake uses for his inventions.

Character 1: Willy Wonka

Mr Wonka was standing all alone just inside the open gates of the factory. And what an extraordinary little man he was! He had a black top hat on his head. He wore a tail coat made of a beautiful plum coloured velvet. His trousers were bottle green. His gloves were pearly grey. And in one hand he carried a fine gold-topped walking cane. Covering his chin, there was a small, neat, pointed black beard – a goatee. And his eyes – his eyes were most marvellously bright. They seemed to be sparkling and twinkling at you all the time. The whole face, in fact, was alight with fun and laughter.

NOTES:

Character 2: Violet

Everybody was staring at Violet. And what a terrible, peculiar sight she was! Her face and hands and legs and neck, in fact the skin all over her body, as well as her great big mop of curly hair, had turned a brilliant purplish-blue, the colour of blueberry juice!

NOTES:

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RESOURCE 3: PRACTISE TIME

Remember Quentin Blake talked about practice being important to help you get to know the character. Using the template, you have three opportunities to practice drawing your character. It's a good idea to have the description extract in front of you with your notes on as a reminder.

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RESOURCE 4: MY ILLUSTRATION

Now you've had a chance to practice, it's time to draw a final version of your character.
Remember Quentin Blake's top tips to help you!

My character's name is: _____