

Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator



By

Roald Dahl

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator

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About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit novelstudies.org

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Suggestions and Expectations

This 85 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one or two chapters of *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* and is comprised of these different activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . and many

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include the importance of family, greed, overcoming difficulty, courage, choices (foolish vs. wise), wealth & poverty.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*
14. Identification of a *cliffhanger*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel
4. Five W's Chart

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists and antagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

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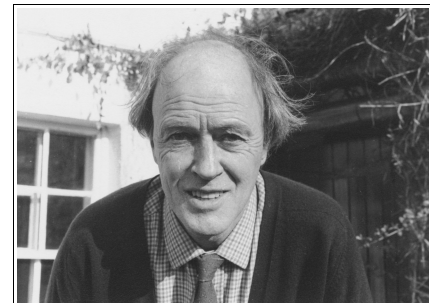
Synopsis

Last seen flying through the sky in a giant elevator in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Charlie Bucket's back for another adventure. When the giant elevator picks up speed, Charlie, Willy Wonka, and the gang are sent hurtling through space and time. Visiting the world's first space hotel, battling the dreaded Vermicious Knids, and saving the world are only a few stops along this remarkable joyride. [The Publisher]

Author Biography

Roald Dahl

Few authors of children's books have been as prolific or **successful** as **Roald Dahl** (1916-1990). His novels have been read and enjoyed by countless children the world over and include such classics as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Danny the Champion of the World*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Matilda*. Shortly before his death, the top five selling children's books in Great Britain were all authored by Dahl.



Born to Norwegian immigrants, Roald Dahl hailed from Llandaff, Wales. Despite losing his father when he was only four, Roald claimed to have had a most happy and eventful childhood. Although not a particularly good student, Roald did excel at athletics.

Dahl was married to the famous actress, **Patricia Neal**, for many years and they had five children together. The couple were, however, divorced after thirty years of marriage. Roald began his writing career as a short story writer, and didn't pen his first children's novel until 1961 - *James and Giant Peach*. This was followed by several bestsellers. Roald Dahl passed away in 1990 at the age of 74. In Great Britain the anniversary of Dahl's birthday on 13 September has become **Roald Dahl Day**.

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Student Checklist

Student Name _____

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments

Charlie and The Great Glass Elevator



By Roald Dahl

Name: _____

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of **Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator** is a very likeable boy, Charlie Bucket, whose life goes through some dramatic changes as the story unfolds. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

extraordinary	triumph	contraption	moderately
accustomed	flabbergasted	precise	frantic

1. A carpenter should take _____ measurements before using his saw.
2. The audience shared in the _____ of the Jamaican sprinter, Usain Bolt.
3. What is the name of that _____ your uncle rode into town on?
4. Mrs. Peacock was completely _____ by Jeremy’s response.
5. My aunt became quite _____ when little Jennie disappeared from sight.
6. Sherlock Holmes has the _____ ability of noticing the most obscure detail at a crime scene.
7. Jasmine was _____ amused when she noticed the rip in Charlie’s pants.
8. After a time the boys grew _____ to the sound of the raindrops on the roof.

Questions



1. What is the setting of Chapter One?

2. Name the eight people who were in the elevator as the novel begins.

3. How might the title of Chapter One be seen as an example of **foreshadowing**? What do you think this might mean to the story?

4. Willy refuses to reveal what the glass elevator is hooked onto. Brainstorm some possible ideas that Willy Wonka might have hooked his elevator to?_

5. Grandmas Georgina and Josephine come up with some very creative and unusual expressions. Put the following expressions in your own words. (Bonus points if yours are as creative as the Grandmas.)

He footless around _____

We'll all be pulpified. _____

What piffle! _____

... he'll lixivate the lot of us. _____

6. Explain why Willy Wonka pushed the green button too late.

7. According to Willy Wonka, why was it necessary for the elevator to reach such an astronomical height?

8. As the first chapter ends we find Grandpa Joe laughing despite their perilous circumstances. What caused him to find humor in their situation?

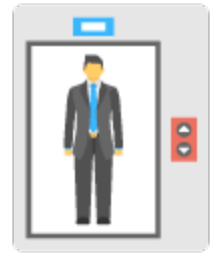
Language Activities



A. Choose ten words from this chapter with two or more **syllables**. Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. **Example:** good / bye.

B. The Poor Neglected Elevator

Most of us have been on elevators many times during our lives. These handy little rooms are found in many of the buildings we enter – department stores, hotels, museums, shopping malls and apartment buildings. But how much do you really know about this fascinating invention? Did you know, for instance, that there are more than 700,000 elevators in the U.S.A. alone?



Your task is to do an investigation of the elevator. You may wish to examine the **history** of the elevator, or the **mechanics** behind it, their particular **uses**, or you may choose to describe one of the world's more interesting elevators (such as the one in the CN Tower in Toronto). Using resources in your school library or on the Internet for your research, record three fascinating facts from your research to share with your classmates.

C. Who is going to help the action word?

An **adverb** is a part of speech defined as *a modifier (or helper) of a verb* (usually an action word). Often an adverb will end in the letters *ly* (i.e. *slowly*). Chapter One features a good many creative adverbs.

1. "Mr. Wonka knows exactly what he's doing."

→ In this sentence, which verb does **exactly** modify? _____

2. . . . and looked up anxiously into the old man's face.

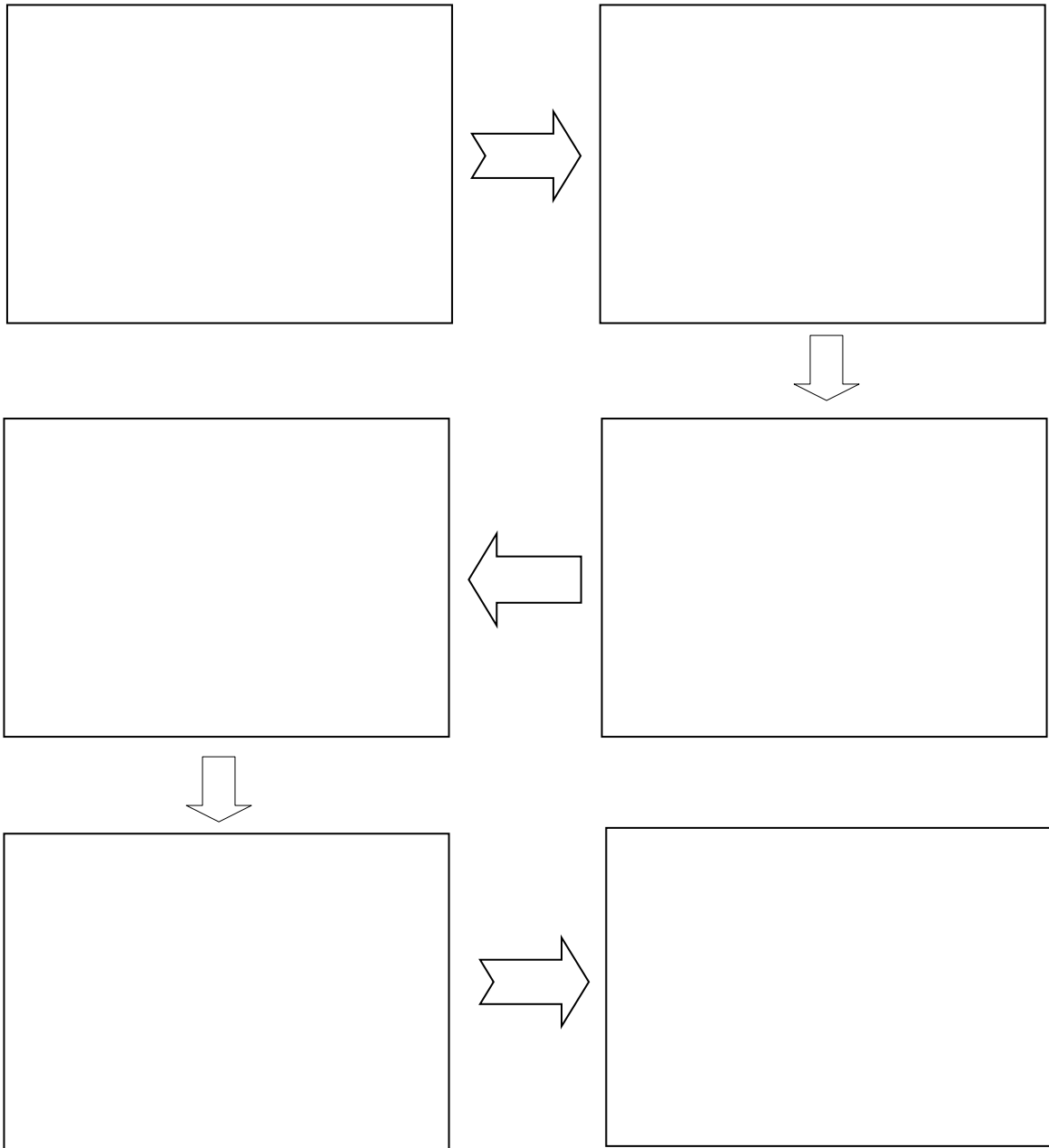
→ In this sentence, what verb does **anxiously** modify? _____

3. The Great Glass Elevator was a thousand feet up and cruising nicely.

→ In this sentence the adverb _____ modifies the verb _____

D. Sequence Chart

Choose what you consider to be the six most important events in this chapter. In each of the six boxes below list the six events that you have chosen, describing what happened and telling why you consider this to be an essential part of the story.



E. 5 Ws and an H.

Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



WHO?



WHAT?



WHEN?



WHERE?



WHY?



HOW?

Extension Activity



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6