

Text: The Twits Roald Dahl

The Twits by Roald Dahl <http://www.stonehome.net.au/4red/TwitsHTML/index.htm> .

Year 3 Reading

(Day 2)

Focus: **Themes**



Read chapters 17, 18 and 19: The **Great Upside Down Monkey Circus, The Roly-Poly Bird to the Rescue and No Bird Pie for Mr Twit.**

Check that you know the meaning of these words from the chapter:

retired	giddy	grandly	perch
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Roald Dahl introduces some new characters: the Mugglewumps and the Roly Poly Bird.

You should recognise these characters from another Roald Dahl book- The Enormous Crocodile.

Activity:

Get out the Enormous Crocodile You have the book- if you cannot find it click this link:

http://ebooks.rahnuma.org/1508584979-Roald.Dahl_The-Enormous-Crocodile.pdf.html

Using pictures and text from the two books, create a character profile of Mugglewump and the Roly-Poly Bird.

Your character profiles could include

- A picture of the character
- A list of words the author used to describe: appearance, personality, behaviour
- Your opinion of the character

Example

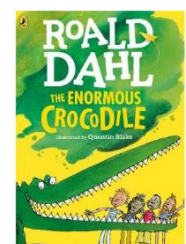
Character Profile

Name: _____

Appearance: _____

Personality: _____

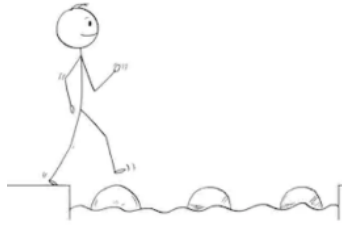
How the character is important to the story: _____



Steppingstone activity

Day 2

Text: The Twits Roald Dahl



The Twits by Roald Dahl <http://www.stonehome.net.au/4red/TwitsHTML/index.htm>

Focus: Themes

Read with an adult Chapters Read chapters 17, 18 and 19: The **Great Upside Down Monkey Circus**, **The Roly-Poly Bird to the Rescue** and **No Bird Pie for Mr Twit**.



Talk and think about what happened.

Think about what could happen next.

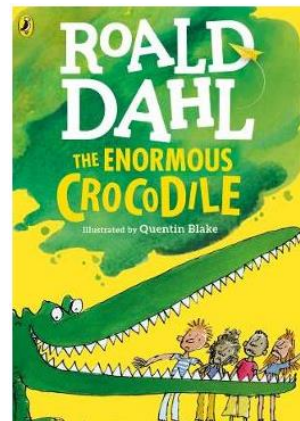
The bird and the monkey are also characters from The Enormous Crocodile.

Look at The Enormous Crocodile and find them. If you can't find your copy of the book, click this link:
http://ebooks.rahnuma.org/1508584979-Roald.Dahl_The-Enormous-Crocodile.pdf.html



Task:

1. Find the Roly-Poly Bird and Mugglewump (in both books)
2. Draw a picture of each.
3. Label words to describe the two characters, from the two books.





The Great Upside Down Monkey Circus

Now for the monkeys.

The four monkeys in the cage in the garden were all one family. They were Muggle-Wump and his wife and their two small children.

But what on earth were Mr and Mrs Twit doing with monkeys in their garden?

Well, in the old days, they had both worked in a circus as monkey trainers. They used to teach monkeys to do tricks and to dress up in human clothes and to smoke pipes and all the rest of that nonsense.

Today, although they were retired, Mr Twit still wanted to train monkeys. It was his dream that one day he would own the first GREAT UPSIDE DOWN MONKEY CIRCUS in the world.

That meant that the monkeys had to do everything upside down. They had to dance upside down (on their hand with their feet in the air). They had to play football upside down. They had to balance one on top of the other upside down, with Muggle-Wump at the bottom and the smallest baby monkey at the very top. They even had to eat and drink upside down and that is not an easy thing to do because the food and water has to go *up* your throat instead of down it. In fact, it is almost impossible, but the monkeys simply had to do it otherwise they got nothing.

All this sounds pretty silly to you and me. It sounded pretty silly to the monkeys, too. They absolutely hated having to do this upside down nonsense day after day. It made them giddy standing on their heads for hours on end. Sometimes the two small monkey children would faint with so much blood going to their heads. But Mr Twit didn't care about that. He kept them practising for six hours every day and if they didn't do as they were told, Mrs Twit would soon come running with her beastly stick.



The Roly-Poly Bird to the Rescue

Muggle-Wump and his family longed to escape from the cage in Mr Twit's garden and go back to the African jungle where they came from.

They hated Mr and Mrs Twit for making their lives so miserable.

They also hated them for what they did to the birds every Tuesday and Wednesday. 'Fly away, birds!' they used to shout, jumping about in the cage and waving their arms. 'Don't sit on that Big Dead Tree! It's just been smeared all over with sticky glue! Go and sit somewhere else!'

But these were English birds and they couldn't understand the weird African language the monkeys spoke. So they took no notice and went on using The Big Dead Tree and getting caught for Mrs Twit's Bird Pie.

Then one day, a truly magnificent bird flew down out of the sky and landed on the monkey cage.

‘Good heavens!’ cried all the monkeys together. ‘It’s the Roly-Poly Bird! What on earth are you doing over here in England, Roly-Poly Bird?’ Like the monkeys, the Roly-Poly Bird came from Africa and he spoke the same language as they did.

‘I’ve come for a holiday,’ said the Roly-Poly Bird. ‘I like to travel.’ He fluffed his marvellous coloured feathers and looked down rather grandly at the monkeys. ‘For most people,’ he went on, ‘flying away on holiday is very expensive, but I can fly anywhere in the world for nothing.’

‘Do you know how to talk to these English birds?’ Muggle-Wump asked him.

‘Of course I do,’ said the Roly-Poly Bird. ‘It’s no good going to a country and not knowing the language.’

‘Then we must hurry,’ said Muggle-Wump. ‘Today is Tuesday and over there you can already see the revolting Mr Twit up the ladder painting sticky glue on all the branches of The Big Dead Tree. This evening when the birds come in to roost, you must warn them not to perch on that tree or they will be made into Bird Pie.’

That evening, the Roly-Poly Bird flew round and round The Big Dead Tree singing out,

‘There’s sticky stick stuff all over the tree!
If you land in the branches, you’ll never get free!
So fly away! Fly away! Stay up high!
Or you’ll finish up tomorrow in a hot Bird Pie!’

No Bird Pie for Mr Twit

The next morning when Mr Twit came out with his huge basket to snatch all the birds from The Big Dead Tree, there wasn’t a single one on it. They were all sitting on top of the monkey cage. The Roly-Poly Bird was there as well, and Muggle-Wump and his family were inside the cage and the whole lot of them were laughing at Mr Twit.



