

Boy by Roald Dahl
Reading Guide

Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Papa and Mama**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. On page 11, Dahl discusses how both his grandfather and father were much older when they became a father. How would it feel to have your father / grandfather so much older than you? Do you think it would be good or bad?
2. What “ingenious instrument” (p. 12) did Dahl’s father invent? Why?
3. What is a shipbroker? (p. 14)
4. What significant event happened to Dahl’s father after moving to Cardiff? (p. 15)
5. What are the “glorious walks” Dahl’s father insisted on having? (p. 18)

Read your assigned pages

After you read:

Answer the comprehension questions:

1. On page 11, Dahl discusses how both his grandfather and father were much older when they became a father. How would it feel to have your father / grandfather so much older than you? Do you think it would be good or bad?
2. What “ingenious instrument” (p. 12) did Dahl’s father invent? Why?
3. What is a shipbroker? (p. 14)
4. What significant event happened to Dahl’s father after moving to Cardiff? (p. 15)
5. What are the “glorious walks” Dahl’s father insisted on having? (p. 18)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Kindergarten**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. What happened to Dahl's family in 1920? (p. 20) Would this have likely happened today? Explain.
2. How did Dahl's mother respond to that incident? (p. 21)
3. How did Dahl get to kindergarten? (p. 23)

Read your assigned pages

After you read:

Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What happened to Dahl's family in 1920? (p. 20) Would this have likely happened today? Explain.
2. How did Dahl's mother respond to that incident? (p. 21)
3. How did Dahl get to kindergarten? (p. 23)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **The Bicycle and The Sweet Shop**

Preview the comprehension questions:

Read your assigned pages

1. What are the two moments Dahl can recall from the Llandoff School he attended from age 7-9? (p. 28)
2. What is “ratitis”? Is it real? (pg. 31)
3. Describe some of Dahl’s favorite candies. (p. 29-32)
4. Describe Mrs. Pratchett. (p. 33)

After you read:

Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What are the two moments Dahl can recall from the Llandoff School he attended from age 7-9? (p. 28)
2. What is “ratitis”? Is it real? (pg. 31)
3. Describe some of Dahl’s favorite candies. (p. 29-32)
4. Describe Mrs. Pratchett. (p. 33)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **The Great Mouse Plot**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Describe "The Great Mouse Plot". (p. 35-37)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Describe "The Great Mouse Plot". (p. 35-37)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Mr. Coombes**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. What was the result of the plot? (p. 38-40)
2. Who is Mr. Coombes? (p. 41)
3. What was Dahl thinking when Mr. Coombes made the whole school line up outside?
(p. 41-42)
4. Why were they lined up? (p. 43-44)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What was the result of the plot? (p. 38-40)
2. Who is Mr. Coombes? (p. 41)
3. What was Dahl thinking when Mr. Coombes made the whole school line up outside?
(p. 41-42)
4. Why were they lined up? (p. 43-44)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Mrs. Pratchett's Revenge**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. How were they punished? (p. 47-49)
2. How did Dahl's mother react? (p. 51)
3. What resulted because of this incident? (p. 51-52)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. How were they punished? (p. 47-49)
2. How did Dahl's mother react? (p. 51)
3. What resulted because of this incident? (p. 51-52)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Going to Norway**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Where did the family go on vacation? (p. 53)
2. How did they get there? (p. 54-55)
3. Describe Bestemama and Bestepapa. (p. 55-56)
4. Describe the Great Annual Celebration Feast. (p. 57-58)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Where did the family go on vacation? (p. 53)
2. How did they get there? (p. 54-55)
3. Describe Bestemama and Bestepapa. (p. 55-56)
4. Describe the Great Annual Celebration Feast. (p. 57-58)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Magic Island**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. How did they spend time on the island?

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. How did they spend time on the island?

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **A Visit to the Doctor**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Why did Dahl go to the doctor? (p. 68)
2. What did the doctor do? Explain. (p. 69-71)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Why did Dahl go to the doctor? (p. 68)
2. What did the doctor do? Explain. (p. 69-71)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **First Day**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. What significant adventure is Dahl beginning? (p. 75)
2. What is a tuck-box? What is usually found in one? (p. 76-77)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What significant adventure is Dahl beginning? (p. 75)
2. What is a tuck-box? What is usually found in one? (p. 76-77)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Writing Home**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Do you think that the letters Dahl sent to his mother were important to her? Why or why not?
2. What importance do those letters have to Dahl now?

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Do you think that the letters Dahl sent to his mother were important to her? Why or why not?
2. What importance do those letters have to Dahl now?

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **The Matron**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Who is the Matron? How did she treat the boys? (p. 85-86)
2. What did Dahl mean that he “never went to sleep with my back to my family”? (p. 90)
3. Explain what happened to Tweedie due to his snoring. (p. 91)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Who is the Matron? How did she treat the boys? (p. 85-86)
2. What did Dahl mean that he “never went to sleep with my back to my family”? (p. 90)
3. Explain what happened to Tweedie due to his snoring. (p. 91)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Homesickness**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. How did Dahl deal with his homesickness? (p. 93-96)
2. What was the result of this? (p. 97-98)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. How did Dahl deal with his homesickness? (p. 93-96)
2. What was the result of this? (p. 97-98)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **A Drive in the Motor-Car**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Describe the family's first ride in a motor-car.

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Describe the family's first ride in a motor-car.

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Captain Hardcastle**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Describe Captain Hardcastle.
2. What was Dahl's biggest incident with Captain Hardcastle? (p. 113-117)
3. How was Dahl punished? (p. 119-120)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Describe Captain Hardcastle.
2. What was Dahl's biggest incident with Captain Hardcastle? (p. 113-117)
3. How was Dahl punished? (p. 119-120)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Little Ellis and the Boil**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. How did the doctor take care of Ellis' boil? (p. 125)
2. Compare the doctor's treatment then with a doctor's treatment now.

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. How did the doctor take care of Ellis' boil? (p. 125)
2. Compare the doctor's treatment then with a doctor's treatment now.

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Goat's Tobacco**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. What is the Goat's Tobacco incident? (p. 127-132)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What is the Goat's Tobacco incident? (p. 127-132)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Getting Dressed for the Big School**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Describe the clothes Dahl had to wear to his new school, Repton. (p. 136)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Describe the clothes Dahl had to wear to his new school, Repton. (p. 136)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Boazers**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. What is a Boazer? (p. 141)
2. What did Boazers do? (p. 141)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What is a Boazer? (p. 141)
2. What did Boazers do? (p. 141)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **The Headmaster**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Why does Dahl write so much about the school beatings? (p. 145)
2. Why was it so puzzling to Dahl? (p. 146)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Why does Dahl write so much about the school beatings? (p. 145)
2. Why was it so puzzling to Dahl? (p. 146)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Chocolates**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. How did the boys help the chocolate company Cadbury? (p. 147)
2. How did this event affect Dahl's professional life years later? (p. 149)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. How did the boys help the chocolate company Cadbury? (p. 147)
2. How did this event affect Dahl's professional life years later? (p. 149)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Corkers**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Who was Corkers, and what did he “teach”? (p. 150)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Who was Corkers, and what did he “teach”? (p. 150)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Fagging**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. Dahl was a servant of the studyholder his first two years at Repton. What did he have to do? (p. 154-155)
2. Describe the Sunday cleaning inspection. (p. 155-156)
3. What was Dahl's worst chore with this job? (p. 158)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. Dahl was a servant of the studyholder his first two years at Repton. What did he have to do? (p. 154-155)
2. Describe the Sunday cleaning inspection. (p. 155-156)
3. What was Dahl's worst chore with this job? (p. 158)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Games and Photography**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. What were Dahl's duties as Captain of Fives? (p. 162)
2. Why wasn't Dahl chosen to be a Boazer, despite being a Captain? (p. 162)
3. Dahl fell in love with photography while at Repton. How was photography different then? (p. 164)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What were Dahl's duties as Captain of Fives? (p. 162)
2. Why wasn't Dahl chosen to be a Boazer, despite being a Captain? (p. 162)
3. Dahl fell in love with photography while at Repton. How was photography different then? (p. 164)

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Before you read:

Make a prediction for what this chapter will be about: **Goodbye School**

Preview the comprehension questions:

1. What did Dahl do after finishing school? (p. 169-170)
2. How did Dahl get out of going to Egypt? (p. 173)
3. Where did he go instead? (p. 174)
4. Why was his tour interrupted? (p. 176)

Read your assigned pages

After you read: Answer the comprehension questions:

1. What did Dahl do after finishing school? (p. 169-170)
2. How did Dahl get out of going to Egypt? (p. 173)
3. Where did he go instead? (p. 174)
4. Why was his tour interrupted? (p. 176)