Text analysis: Selections from *The Big Friendly Giant*

1. What are Dahl’s views on the relationship between children and adults? How does he represent adults in his literature (see interview)? Discuss the adult characters in the story, including the giant. Provide one or two relevant quotations.

2. Does the following quote by Dahl apply to the characters in this story or to any other story by Dahl that you know? Explain why:

“I find that the only way to make characters really interesting to children is to exaggerate all their good and bad qualities. That I think is fun and makes an impact”.

Do you agree with Dahl in this respect?

3. Summarize Dahl’s views on violence in children’s literature (see interview). Do you agree with him?. Find examples of violence in the story.

4. Does Dahl write about bodily functions in this story? Find examples and explain why he does it.

5. Does Dahl use any nonsense word or altered words in this story? Give examples. Why do you think he does this? Who is he influenced by?

6. Dahl has said that “it is tough to hold a child”. How does he try to hold his child readers in this story?

7. Go to Dahl’s *official website* at www.roalddahl.com. Unfold ‘The Glass Elevator’ menu (top left), then click on ‘Interview with Roald Dahl’, then on ‘Question 11’. Here you will listen to Dahl reading from *The BFG*. What is the passage about? Why do you think he chose to read this passage and not any other?

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