

Year 2 Knowledge Organiser - The Minpins

Important information

Little Billy's mum says he must never go out through the garden gate and explore the dark forest beyond. So, one day, that's exactly what he does. There he meets the Minpins: miniature people who live in the hollow trees. They soon warn Billy of the fearsome, galloping Gruncher, who has grunched thousands of Minpins. And it will gobble up Little Billy too - unless he can find a way to defeat the hungry beast, once and for all...

Themes: **Facing one's fears** - as much as his mother's stories about the woods stoke Billy's curiosity, it is also clear that she has succeeded in spooking him. When he first enters the "Forest of Sin" it is described in imagery that successfully conveys this impact upon him.

Collaboration - The collection of food requires a systematic collaborative effort by all the adult Minpins with the assistance of birds acting as their means of transportation.

Setting: Forest

Characters

Billy	A young adventurous boy
Spittler	A creature that breathes red smoke.



„And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.“

— Roald Dahl, book The Minpins

Context The son of Norwegian parents, Roald Dahl was born in Wales in 1916 and educated at Repton. He was a fighter pilot for the RAF during World War Two, and it was while writing about his experiences during this time that he started his career as an author. His fabulously popular children's books are read by children all over the world. Some of his better-known works include James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Fantastic Mr Fox, Matilda, The Witches, and The BFG. He died in November 1990.

Name of book: The Minpins
Date Published: 2002
Author: Roald Dahl
Illustrator: Patrick Benson

Writing genres:

- Setting description
- Letter
- Short story

Key Vocabulary

Gruncher	The Red-Hot Smoke-Belching Gruncher , also known as the Terrible Blood-Suckling Tooth-Plucking Stone-Chuckling Spittler
Minpins	A group of miniature people living in the trees
stench	The disgusting smell that comes from the tummy of a meat-eating animal