

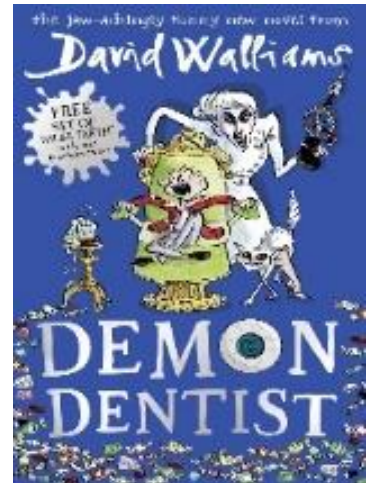
English – Activity 1

Read the extracts below pages 28-32 from the Demon Dentist.

Task: When you are reading underline or write down any facts that you find out about Alfie.

Write bullet points in your book about:

- his physical appearance
- his personality and feelings
- his lifestyle
- his friends and family
- any other useful details



Alfie ran out of the dental surgery as fast as his little legs would carry him. That fateful afternoon the boy vowed that he would never ever go to the dentist's again. To this day he never had. Appointments had come and appointments had gone. Alfie had missed every single one. Over the years there had been a sackful of reminder letters from the dentist, but Alfie had hidden them all from his dad.

Alfie's was a family of two. Just him and his father. The boy's mother had died giving birth to him. He had never known her. Sometimes he

felt sad, as if he missed his mother, but then he would tell himself, how could he miss someone he had never met?

To hide the appointment letters from the dentist, the boy would silently drag a stool across the kitchen floor. Alfie was short for his age. He was, in fact, the second shortest kid at his school. So he would have to balance on his tiptoes on the stool to reach the top of the larder where he would hide the



letters. There must have been a hundred letters buried up there by now, and Alfie knew his father couldn't reach them. That's because for many years Dad had been unwell, and had of late become confined to a wheelchair.

Before ill health forced him out of work, Dad was a coal miner. A great big bear of a man, he had loved working down the pit and providing for his beloved son. However, all those years he spent down the mine took a terrible toll on his lungs. Dad was a proud man, and didn't let on about his illness for many years. He worked harder and harder to dig more and more coal, even taking on extra shifts to help make ends meet. Meanwhile his breathing became shallower and shallower, until one afternoon he collapsed at the coalface. When Dad finally came round at the hospital the doctors told him he could never go down a mine

again. Just one more lungful of coal dust could finish him off for good. As the years passed Dad's breathing worsened. Getting another job became impossible, and even everyday tasks, something as simple as tying a shoelace, grew to be a struggle. Soon Dad could only get around in a wheelchair.

With no mum or brothers or sisters, Alfie had to care for his father alone. Besides having to go to school and do his homework, the boy would do all the shopping, all the cleaning, cook all the meals, and do all the washing up. Alfie never complained though. He loved his dad with all his heart.

Dad's body may have been broken, but his spirit wasn't. He had a great gift for telling stories. "Listen, pup..." he would begin.

Dad would often call his son that, which Alfie loved. The image it conjured up of a big soppy

English – Activity 2

Today, you will be writing a character description of Alfie using your notes from activity 1. Here are some features you should aim to include;

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| - prepositions | - interesting conjunctions |
| - fronted adverbials | - similes |
| - noun phrases | |



Here are the details that can be found in the book.

Alfie fact find:

- Fast runner with little legs
- Avoids the dentist – misses appointments often, hides the reminder letters
- Lives with his dad – Mum died during childbirth
- Sneaky – silently he drags a stool to hide the letters on top of the wardrobe so Dad in his wheelchair can't get them
- Short for his age
- Good balance
- Looked after – described as a beloved son
- Cares for his father alone – shops, cleans and cooks
- Alfie never complains though
- Loving, a good son – he loves his dad with all his heart
- Dad calls him pup

Read the description of Alfie to help you write your own character description.

Alfie is a young, timid and kind-natured boy and is short for his age. He also has the misfortune of being as thin as a gardener's rake. He has scruffy, tangled hair and rotten teeth that can be seen when he smiles. He lives with his frail, old dad in their plain, cramped council house. Unfortunately, his mum died during childbirth. He adores his dad with all his heart and he cares for his father alone. This means Alfie has to do all the shopping, cleaning, cooking and much more, however, Alfie never complains about this.

Full of dread and anxiety, Alfie avoids the dentist at all costs by regularly missing essential dental appointments. To get out of attending, he searches for and hides the reminder letters like a thief prowling in the night. Sneakily, he hides the letters on top of the antique, pine wardrobe so his dad, who is in a wheelchair, can't get them. Luckily, Alfie is a fast runner so he can dodge trouble when it occurs.

Task: Write your own character description about Alfie. Don't forget to proofread your writing for spelling and punctuation errors when you have finished. You could try and use an online dictionary to check spellings.

English - Activity 3

Today, you will be finding out facts about the evil dentist, Miss Root. You will need to read the extracts and write facts about Miss Root. Below are pages 42-47.

noticed a large splash of red on the toe of one of her shiny white high-heeled shoes.

Is it blood? thought Alfie.

Miss Root's hair was white-blonde, and arranged in a perfectly lacquered 'do', usually only spotted on the heads of Queens or Prime Ministers. The 'do' was shaped much like a Mr Whippy ice cream, minus the flake, of course.

In a certain light she looked very old. Her features were narrow and pointy, and her skin pale as snow. However, the dentist had painstakingly painted on so much make-up that it was impossible to tell how old she really was.

50?

90?

900?

Finally Miss Root reached the front of the hall. She turned around, and smiled. The low winter sun shone through the high windows

It might not have been the most flattering choice of words, but the headmaster allowed himself a brief flicker of a smile as all the kids at last fell silent. Everyone looked at Gabz as she sat back down. After her outburst, the girl was now surrounded by the strange glow of celebrity.

"Good..." continued Mr Grey, in his grey monotonous voice. "A bit less of the old though, thank you, Gabriella. Now as a special treat for you, with a talk about looking after your teeth, here is the town's new dentist. P-p-please give a huge school welcome to the lovely Miss R-R-Root..."

As the headmaster scuttled off, there was a short burst of applause. Soon this was drowned out by a discordant squeaking sound from the very back of the hall. One by one the kids turned around. A lady was pushing a shiny metal trolley down through the parted sea of

and bounced off her teeth, causing the front few rows to cover their eyes.

“Good morning, children...!” she said brightly. The dentist spoke in a singsong manner, as if she were recounting a nursery rhyme. There was a collective groan from the kids at being spoken to as if they were toddlers.

“I said, *good morning, children...*” repeated the dentist, and she fixed them all with a powerful stare. So powerful that soon a hush descended upon the room. Then in unison all the assembled pupils said:

“Good morning.”

“Let me introduce myself. I am your new dentist. My name is Miss Root, but I ask all my little patients like you to call me ‘Mummy’.”

Alfie and Gabz shared a look of disbelief.

“So can I hear a great big ‘Hello, Mummy’? After three! One, two, three...”

Miss Root mouthed the words silently as the children joined in.

“Hello, Mummy,” they murmured.

“Excellent! Now I came to this town when a very unfortunate, indeed fatal, accident befell Mr Erstwhile. The poor wretch must have

fallen on to one of his own dental instruments. Oh, the irony! Of course there’s no need to go into all the gory details, but suffice it to say, Mr Erstwhile was found lying on the floor of his surgery in a huge pool of blood. The dental probe was embedded deep in his heart...”



Task: First, split your page into two equal parts. Now write the words or phrases you found in the texts to describe Miss Root's appearance and her personality. Can you compare Miss Root with Alfie and explain how they are different?

| Personality | Appearance |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">••••• | <ul style="list-style-type: none">••••• |

English - Activity 4

Today, you will be using your knowledge of dialogue to write a conversation between Miss Root and Alfie. Here are some rules you will need to follow.

Rule 1: The inverted commas only go around the words spoken.

“Your teeth are absolutely rotten. I will need to take them all out!” shouted Miss Root.

Rule 2: The end punctuation must come before the end speech mark.

“All my teeth? They are not that bad,” argued Alfie.

“Your teeth are horrid young man! You should visit mummy more often,” said Miss Root.

Rule 3: Remember to start a new line for when a different character speaks. Don't forget to add synonyms for **said** and **adverbs** around your speech to make it interesting to read.

Hesitantly, Alfie walked into the dentist looking at all the sharp, pointy tools Miss Root had. “Come to mummy, don't worry Alfie you won't feel a single thing,” **sneered** Miss Root.

Glaring at her drill, he mumbled **quietly**, “Do you have to use that?” She guided the tool inside his mouth, before plunging it into his tooth. “Oh yes! Lots of lovely decay in this tooth,” she **cackled deviously**.

Task: Write a conversation between Miss Root and Alfie when Alfie is forced to go to the dentist. Perhaps Miss Root could try to persuade Alfie to let her check his teeth. Will he leave the dentist with all his teeth? Don't forget the rules for writing dialogue.

| <u>Synonyms for said</u> | <u>Adverbs</u> |
|--|--|
| mumbled yelled cackled whispered muttered wailed screeched | noisily hesitantly anxiously angrily daringly miserably |

English - Activity 5

Today, you will be writing a diary entry as Alfie based on a strange event that is coming up in the story. Read pages 68-71 to find out more about the strange event.

On his way home from school that afternoon, Alfie wanted to dispose of the presents Miss Root had given him as quickly as possible. He didn't trust that lady one bit. There was something deeply disturbing about her. That splash of red on her shoe, the creep around the hall in the minute's silence for the dead dentist, and those sugar-free sweets that never ran out were just too good to be true. So when Alfie crossed the bridge over the canal as he always did on his way to and from school, he stopped. He pulled the toothbrush and toothpaste out of his blazer pocket. He examined the label, 'MUMMY'S'. It was such a comforting brand name. How could you not trust anything called 'MUMMY'S'?

The boy unscrewed the lid of the tube. Immediately some sticky yellow gunk, the

colour of pus, snaked out of the end. It smelt rank, like warm sick. A small glob of it fell to the ground. It hissed and fizzed as it bore its way through the stone bridge like acid.

What is in that toothpaste?

thought Alfie. Just then he noticed the paste was still oozing out of the tube.

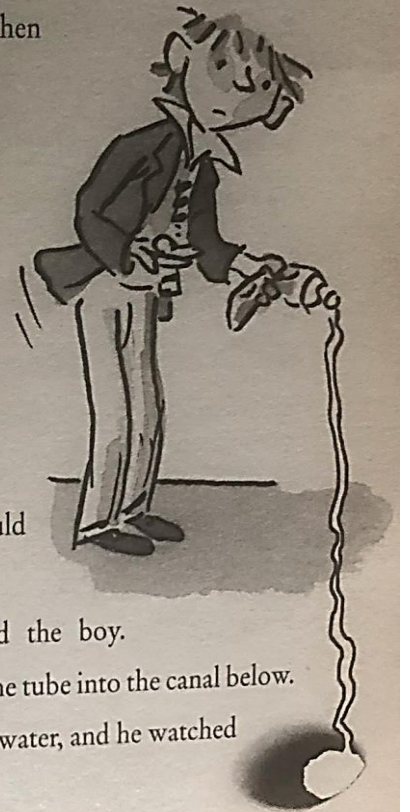
It was moving dangerously close to his fingers.

A smidgen of it landed on his skin, and instantly he could feel it burning.

"Ow!" screamed the boy.

He quickly threw the tube into the canal below.

It plopped into the water, and he watched



as the tube sank to the bottom, the paste still snaking out. Then Alfie noticed he still had the hard wire toothbrush Miss Root had given him in his other hand. The bristles looked like they would scratch your teeth away, rather than clean them. So he threw the brush in the canal too.

As Alfie took a couple of paces to continue on his journey home, a strange sound stopped him in his tracks.

Looking back he saw that beneath the bridge, the water in the canal

was boiling and bubbling. It was like a mini volcano erupting. The boy watched in horror as a school of dead fish plopped to the surface and floated there. As he peered down at the water, a gaggle of kids from his school passed him, laughing and joking, their mouths

full of 'MUMMY'S'

chocolates and toffees

and fruit chews. Every

single child looked like

they couldn't be happier,

greedily munching and

crunching and scrunching

them.

If that's what her toothpaste does, thought Alfie, what on earth is in those special sweets of hers...?

Here's an example of a diary entry with some useful features you should try to use.

Dear Diary,

You'll never guess what happened to me today! It was the weirdest thing ever. Earlier today, I wanted to dispose of all the presents Miss Root had given the entire school. Especially, her sugar-free sweets that never ran out and the toothpaste called 'Mummy's'. It looked like such a comforting brand name that anyone would trust, but only I knew what I had seen! Her shoe had a splash of bright red on it as if it was blood and I wasn't going to keep anything given by her.

As quick as I could, I unscrewed the lid and yellow gunk came dripping out of the toothpaste. It smelt like warm sick. Dripping on the floor, the toothpaste hissed and fizzed violently. It felt like acid burning on my fingers. Rapidly, I charged to the bridge and threw the toothpaste and sharp toothbrush into the canal. Looking back, I saw the water boiling and bubbling like a volcano

erupting. I couldn't believe what I have just witnessed. If that's what the toothpaste was like, then what would the sweets do to your teeth?

From Alfie

Task: Write your own diary entry as Alfie to explain what happened with the toothpaste. Try to think of your own ideas what else could the toothpaste do? Write two paragraphs using fronted adverbials, noun phrases and conjunctions. Remember to write in first person using the pronouns I, my and me.