

Roald Dahl's schooldays

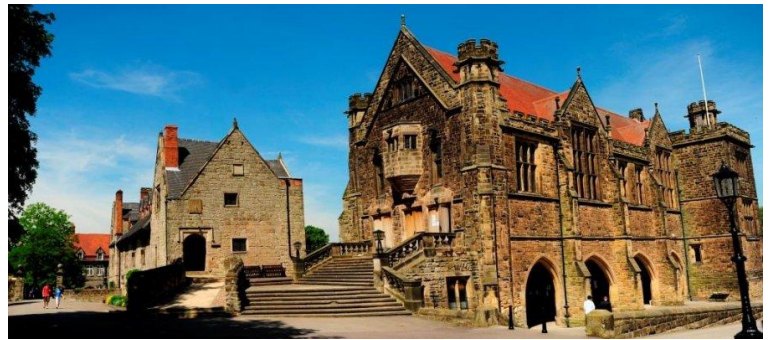
Roald Dahl's schooldays were filled with the ritual cruelty of fagging and with terrible beatings.



Old Reptonians, including Roald Dahl (top right) at school in 1931.

Worksheet on Roald Dahl's schooldays

In 1929, Roald Dahl was sent to Repton School, a public school at the age of 13. It was the same school attended by William Perkins (the narrator/main character of *Galloping Foxley*) and Bruce ("Galloping") Foxley.



Activity 1 - Vocabulary:

Match the words with the corresponding definitions.

1- public schools	a) The headmaster	1-
2- state schools	b) Disciplinary action that is physical in nature delivered for some type of student misbehaviour	2-
3- boarding schools	c) Senior students having special powers in a public school, particularly over the junior students	3-
4- discipline	d) To be forced to leave a school, an organization or a place	4-
5- hierarchy	e) Expensive fee-paying secondary boarding schools that traditionally prepared the sons of the English upper and upper-middle classes for the universities or for public service	5-
6- "the Boss"	f) A short metal-tipped cane carried especially by officers in the armed forces	6-
7- prefects ("boazers")	g) To beat severely with a whip or stick	7-
8- "seconds"	h) A set of rules or methods to control behaviour	8-
9- juniors ("fags")	i) To beat, especially repeatedly with a stick	9-
10- corporal punishment	j) A sudden hard stroke	10-
11- cane	k) Schools maintained by the state, in which education is free	11-
12- swagger-stick	l) An injury in which the skin or another external surface is torn, pierced or cut	12-
13- strap	m) The younger students in a public school who acted as personal servants to the most senior boys	13-

14- to flog	n)Arrangement of a group of people in successive ranks or grades with each level subordinate to the one above	14-
15- to thrash	o) A rank of senior students in a public school, right below the prefects	15-
16- blow	p) Schools where students are provided with meals and lodging	16-
17- wound	q)A wooden stick used to administer a beating as a punishment	17-
18- to be expelled (from)	r) A narrow piece of leather or other strong material	18-

Activity 2- Comprehension:

A- Make a list of the 6 TASKS a "fag" was supposed to do, as mentioned in the text.

Write notes!

- 1- _____
- 2- _____
- 3- _____
- 4- _____
- 5- _____
- 6- _____

B- Answer the following questions.

1- Although the text says, in paragraph 5, that the corporal punishments "were part of a culture of toughening children", do you agree with this kind of discipline at schools? Justify your answer.

2- If you were in one of those juniors' shoes, being the servant of a prefect and receiving frequent corporal punishments, how would you feel? What would you do?

3- Which common points are there between the text *Roald Dahl's schooldays* and **Part IV** of the Short story *Galloping Foxley* (pages 17-25)? Explain.
