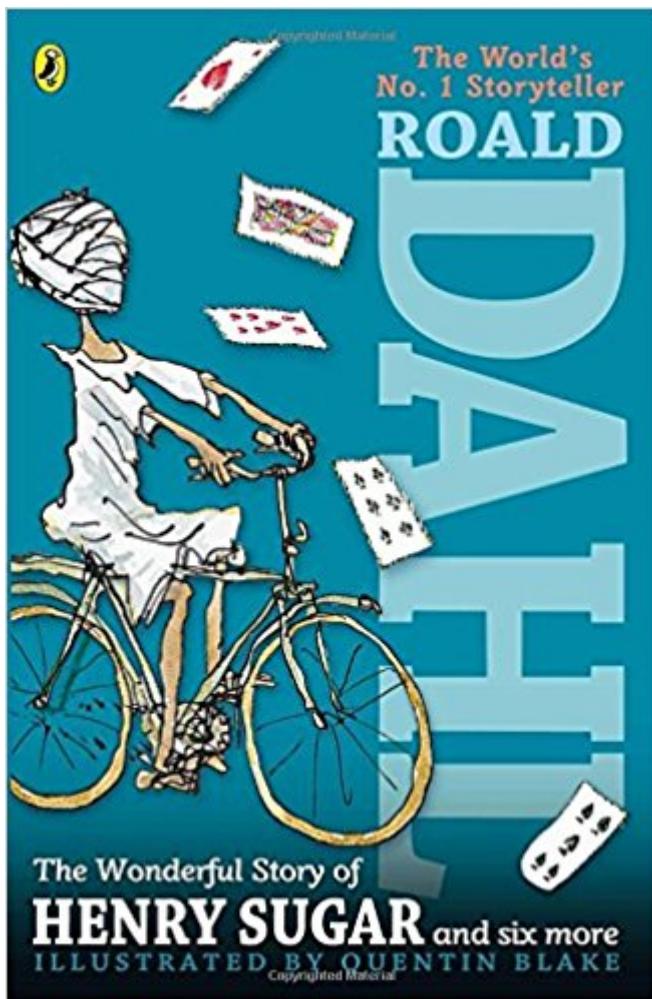


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# The Wonderful Story Of Henry Sugar



## Synopsis

Seven superb short stories from the bestselling author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The BFG!* Meet the boy who can talk to animals and the man who can see with his eyes closed. And find out about the treasure buried deep underground. A clever mix of fact and fiction, this collection also includes how master storyteller Roald Dahl became a writer. With Roald Dahl, you can never be sure where reality ends and fantasy begins. "All the tales are entrancing inventions."

•Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-8 •Dahl story's are written to be enjoyed, to be provocative, to bypass adults and speak directly to children's psyches, and they certainly are birthed from a wellspring of imagination that is entirely unique in the world of children's literature. But few among his legions of fans will have read this collection of short stories originally published in 1977. These are complex, compelling, and complicated stories for more mature listeners. Mature not in an age-related sense, but in literary way; Dahl rewards patient and attuned listeners with stories that illuminate the meanness of children, the tenderness of a mother, or the greed of a character like Henry Sugar. The narration in this audio recording is spot on and superb. Andrew Scott's British lilt provides an intimate listening experience, as if we are all huddled together around a flashlight, long past our bedtimes, hanging on every word. •Meg B. Allison, Moretown School, Moretown, VT --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Few modern writers have attracted such an appreciative audience among adults and children as Dahl. . . . All the tales are entrancing inventions." — Publishers Weekly

An interesting start for a budding young Roald Dahl, who would eventually give us some of the greatest children's writing this side of Harry Potter. There's British wit, wonder and magic, but what makes this book special for me is that it isn't the same whimsical, occasionally eerie voice Dahl would later adopt for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Danny The Champion of the World, etc. These seven stories offer a more straightforward, workmanlike prose; the work of a magazine writer earning a living, rather than a legend spinning another bestselling tale. As a result, these read more like kid-friendly general audience short stories than many Dahl books (if you've read compilations of his work for adults, you're aware that they are decidedly NOT for younger audiences). For an advanced young reader, it's perfect, and for an adult, it's a light, joyous read.

This is a GREAT book, but unfortunately it seems to have been very cheaply produced, or, at best, very poorly handled by . I purchased this as a gift and when it arrived it looked like a used book. There were marks all over the spine and edges of the cover where the glossy coating had been nicked and bumped away to exposed the white core. I was embarrassed and disappointed to give this as a gift in the condition it was in.

This was a book I loved as a tween and teen, and have now been introducing my children to, reading a story or part of one each night before bed. It helps children make the move from Dahl's stories for children, all about chocolate and magic and redemption for oppressed children, to his stories for adults, with stories that verge from magical realism to stories that are real but just highly unusual, like finding buried treasure or meeting a very skilled pickpocket. We've read the first few, and are now in the middle of the title story, "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar," which contains a story within a story and is longer and absolutely enthralling. I would recommend that parents of tweens and even younger teens skip over "The Swan" until their children are old enough to handle it. It's a beautifully written story, but could be pretty disturbing for sensitive children.

In my eyes, Roald Dahl is the greatest children's author that ever lived, and even for adults he is in my top 5. I first read this book when I was 7 years old - at the time I was struck with the wonderful magic that he seems to work into all his stories. Upon reading it again as a young teen, I started to get the feeling that he had a wicked sense of humor, without malignity but wicked nonetheless. Now

as an adult, I decided to revisit this wonderful book, and suddenly the subtle social nuances, the author's sarcastic wit, and the fantastical but totally believable characters jump to life. I know someone who IS Henry Sugar, have met him at parties, and wished this story was true. The hitchhiker obviously is exaggerated, and yet I feel as though I could meet him in the pub tomorrow without raising an eyebrow. Below are some general guidelines to reading this book: 1) If you don't have a sense of humor, do not expect this book to wow you. This is very much high-brow humor, so if your favorite show is Family Guy or the like, you will be disappointed. The humor in Dahl's short stories is found hidden behind the psyche of the characters involved. Whether in the devilish grin of the hitchhiker as the policeman walks up to the car, or in the mysterious man who watches as the lighter is flicked again and again, to gain a true understanding of the characters, you must read what Dahl does not write, but only implies in his description of his inventions. 2) If you have lost your child-like wonder of the world, you may not GET these stories. Dahl himself said that we must rigidly grasp our child-like wonder before it is gone, and I am a firm believer in this. That said, if you loved Le Petit Prince (The Little Prince) and have not yet experienced Dahl, BUY THIS BOOK IMMEDIATELY. You will fall in love, and your children eventually will too. Parents - you may or may not want your kids to read this book... I won't spoil any plot lines for you but the themes are sometimes adult, but rarely inappropriate. Adults - buy this book, set aside an afternoon without your cellphone or laptop, and relish in the fantastical, but very real worlds that Dahl creates.

I bought this in Kindle form and my young kids (ages 8-11) and I took turns reading paragraphs aloud over the summer break. We especially enjoyed the story of Henry Sugar, the hitch hiker, and the buried treasure. We didn't like the story about the little boy who was bullied and tortured by two thugs. We were hoping something bad would happen to the bullies but it never happened.

My 10 yr old loved it.

five stars

Very good - most of the stories are very believable. I think the best, most believable is the story "The swan" in spite of its somewhat unpleasant subject matter. This is definitely not your typical Roald Dahl book. There are no fearsome Snozzwangers, no friendly Fluffywuffies, and no grizzly deaths, just good wholesome reading, so whether I'd recommend this book to your child depends on what they want in a book

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