



## Roald Dahl – The Hitchhiker



Hi there hitchhikers, welcome to **week 13 of FE home learning!** This week we heard the Roald Dahl short story called, '**The Hitchhiker**'. It's an interesting and I think entertaining story with a nice twist at the end. Did you guess what was coming? Part of me imagines how cool it would be to be able to do the things that **the fingersmith**

can do, but there are **two important reasons** that I would never be in that position. They are:

1. It would take a very long time and total dedication to perfect the techniques described in the story. I mean years if not decades.
2. It's **dishonest** to take things from other people, even if they are richer than you.

The second one might seem obvious, but you'd be surprised by how many actual real life criminals justify their actions to themselves in this way. **Stealing is never ok** and will get you into trouble every time.

There are of course some interesting **fictional characters** who may cause us to question this. **Robin Hood** for instance is said to have 'Stolen from the rich to give to the poor'. In the Robin Hood story however **Prince John** is portrayed as an **evil and mean spirited** character, so we the audience don't mind that Robin steals from him. Things are never usually this clear cut in **real life** though, and it's always best to **leave other peoples' things alone**.



### Writing Task 1:

#### THE WEIRDEST JOBS IN THE WORLD!

The character in the story has a very strange profession. He describes himself as a '**Fingersmith**', which is a highly accomplished thief. So highly accomplished in fact that the character is quite insulted when the narrator refers to him as a mere 'pickpocket'!

Look at these job titles, and **write a short description** of what you think that person does in the **box underneath**. These jobs are real, if a tad strange, but you can **play and be as creative as you like** before scrolling down to follow the link to see the actual descriptions.



Use **whole sentences**, pay attention to your **spelling** and don't forget to **punctuate** with **Capitals, full stops, commas** etc.

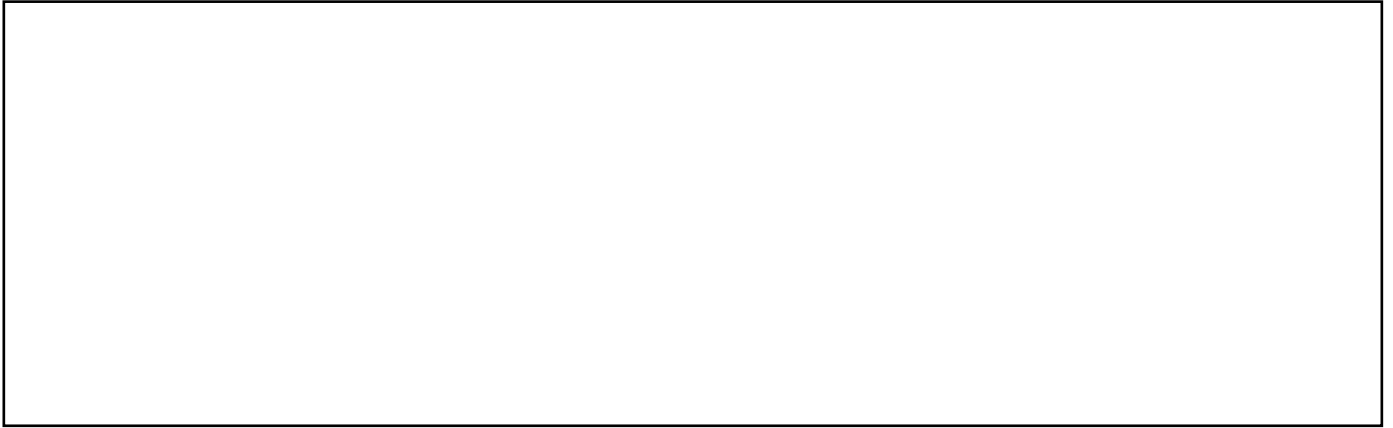
The clue is often in the name, but I want your ideas on what they **actually do in the job**.

### **10) Professional sleeper:**

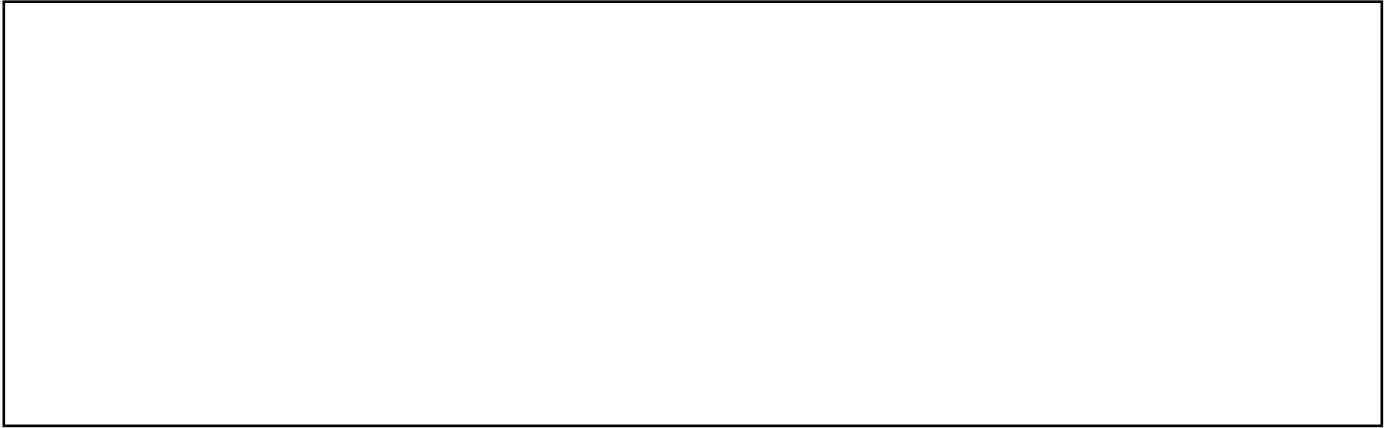
### **9) Drying paint watcher:**

### **8) Full-time Netflix viewer:**

### **7) Train Pusher:**



### **6) Professional Mourner:**



### **5) Snake Milker:**

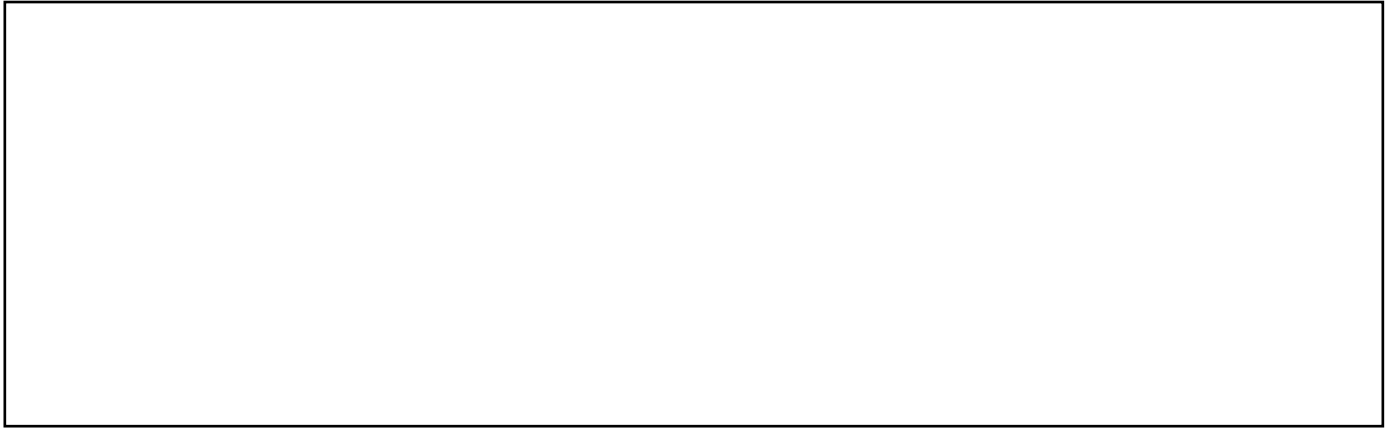


#### **4) Dog food taster:**

#### **3) Odour Judge:**

#### **2) Marmite Taster:**

## 1) Scuba Diving Pizza Delivery Man:



Follow this link to see the actual real descriptions of what these strange jobs entail and why they exist.

<https://theundercoverrecruiter.com/weirdest-jobs-world/>

### Writing Task 2:

In the story, the fingersmith somehow manages to **steal the policeman's notebooks**, so that he and the narrator won't get in trouble for the **speeding offence**.

**Write an account of this from the policeman's perspective**, from when you stop the car (at that point doing a hundred and twenty miles per hour) to when you finally discover that your books are missing.

Here is a loose breakdown of the events to remind you, and my usual opening sentence for those who want to use it. You can of course ignore it and go straight in with your own words.

- The policeman catches up with the car after a high speed chase.
- He is very annoyed at the cheek of the driver, doing 120 mph.
- He checks the driver and passenger's driving licenses, and takes down their details in his book, issuing a speeding ticket.
- He makes some threats about the consequences awaiting the driver e.g. fines and even jail.
- He rides off on his motorbike.
- He presumably must then get back to the station and discover that he has no note books.
- It's up to you whether he works out that he's been robbed.

Use the boxes below to write notes, practice a draft and then write your piece

Notes

**Write your draft here. If you like you can use this opening sentence to get going:**

I was on a routine traffic patrol when I saw this idiot going so fast I could hardly keep up. He must have been doing a hundred and twenty at least. I revved the throttle on my motorbike and gave chase.

And that's where you come in...

Draft

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

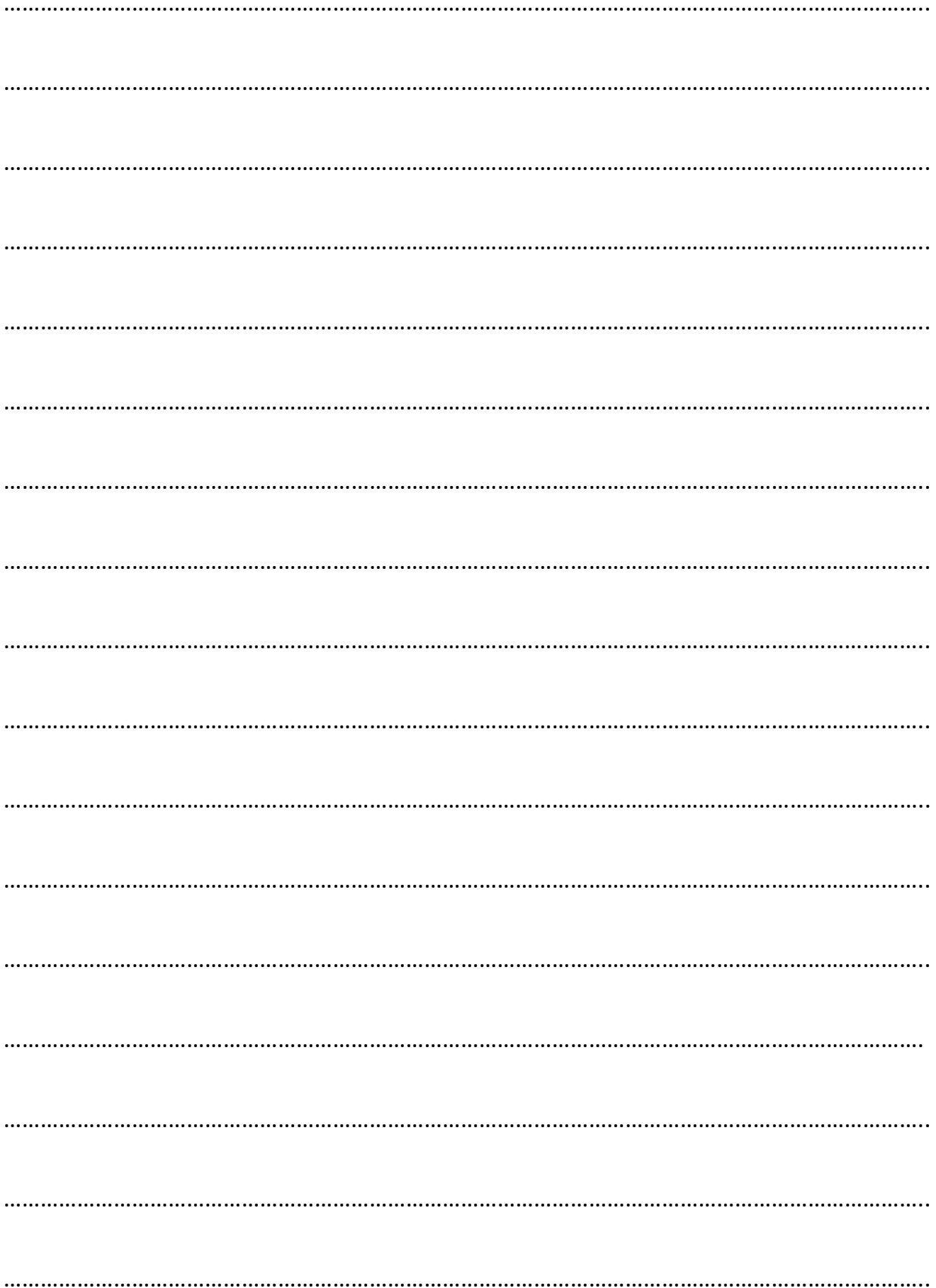
.....

.....

Continue on separate sheet if necessary.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.





Just for fun here is a link to a clip on Youtube, of the magician David Blaine actually removing someone's watch without them realising. He has to use all sorts of distraction techniques so isn't as good as the fingersmith, but it's still pretty impressive to see it done.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq0GO14QiGM>

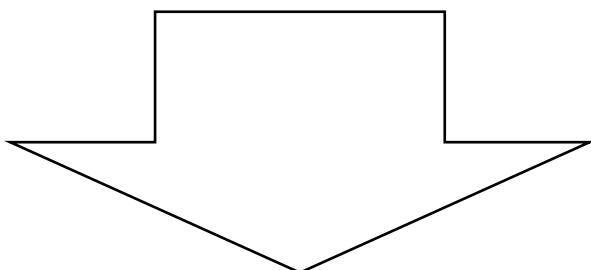


### Maths Task 1:



Alright Guvnor? Well respected fictional Dickensian pickpocket '**The Artful Dodger**' here, ready to give you a few brain teasers for this week's maths tasks. *Obviously* I would never do anything illegal, (no really, straight up) so the **word problems** here are entirely made up and never really happened to me and my criminal gang at all ever. Just ask Fagin and Bill Sykes, they'll vouch for me!

The gang has had a good day's pickpocketing and it's time to divvy up the loot. The lads have put their spoils on the table and this is what they had:



Name	Loot
Artful Dodger	£5.50
Nipper	£12.50
Spider	£15.00
Nell	£8.00
Whistler	£6.50
Rose	£22.00
Snakeman	£0.50

1. How much loot altogether did the gang get away with?
2. If the gang want to divide their loot equally between them, how much do they each get?

3. It takes Artful Dodger one hour to steal one pound. How long did it take him to get his day's contributions to the pot?

4. What is that in minutes?

5. Fagin arrives and demands his cut but the gang pretend that they only got half of their real total. How much do they tell Fagin they have?

6. Fagin doesn't believe them and demands his usual 10% cut of their actual total. How much do the gang have to give Fagin?

### Maths task 2



Two well-known authors are driving their new BMW sports cars in opposite directions, having started at the same place. One travels at 35 mph and the other at 50 mph.

1. How far apart are the cars after 2 hours?

2. How about after 3 hours?

Extension; It's a tricky one!

3. How long does it take for them to be 340 miles apart?



A still from one of the TV versions of Roald Dahl's 'The Hitchhiker'. In this version the fingersmith appears to have an Irish accent! I definitely saw it as a cockney accent in the written version but who knows?

## Art task, wanted poster

Design a wanted poster for the fingersmith character in the story. There is a wanted poster template on the next page you can use, or design your own from scratch.

Here are a few lines from the story that describe his appearance.

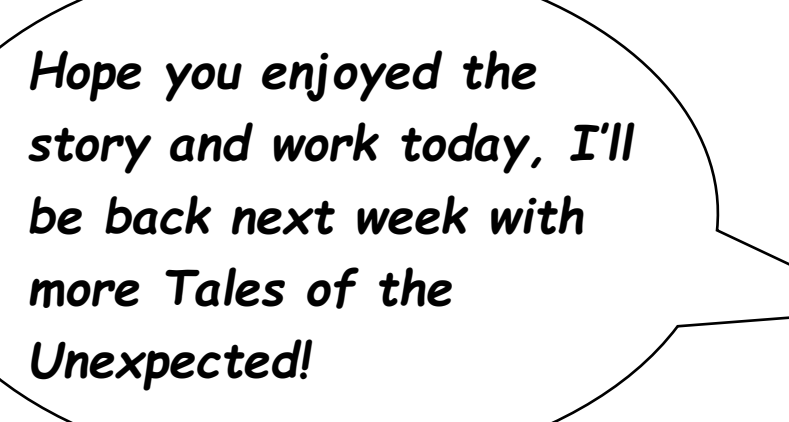
*He was a small ratty-faced man with grey teeth. His eyes were dark and quick and clever, like rat's eyes, and his ears were slightly pointed at the top. He had a cloth cap on his head and he was wearing a greyish-coloured jacket with enormous pockets. The grey jacket, together with the quick eyes and the pointed ears, made him look more than anything like some sort of a huge human rat.*

Wanted posters often have information about the crimes the wanted person is believed to have committed. You can include some of this on your poster if you like.

# WANTED





A large, white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned on the right side of the page. It has a tail pointing towards the bottom right corner. Inside the bubble, the text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in five lines. The text reads: "Hope you enjoyed the story and work today, I'll be back next week with more Tales of the Unexpected!"

**Hope you enjoyed the story and work today, I'll be back next week with more Tales of the Unexpected!**

