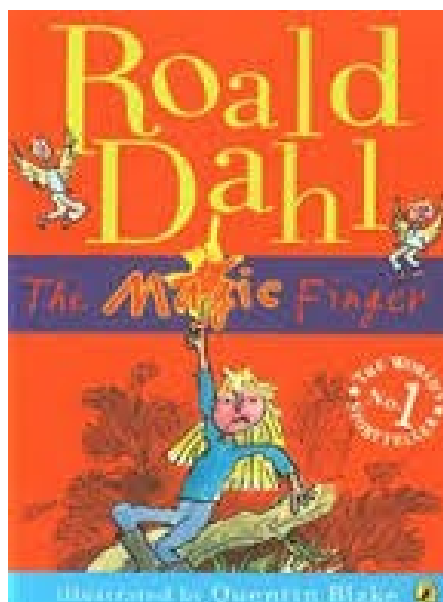




The Magic Finger

Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake (Illustrator)

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What happens when the hunter becomes the hunted?

To the Gregg family, hunting is just plain fun. To the girl who lives next door, it's just plain horrible. She tries to be polite. She tries to talk them out of it, but the Greggs only laugh at her. Then one day the Greggs go too far, and the little girl turns her Magic Finger on them. When she's very, very angry, the little girl's Magic Finger takes over. She really can't control it, and now it's turned the Greggs into birds! Before they know it, the Greggs are living in a nest, and that's just the beginning of their problems....

The Magic Finger Details

Date : Published January 22nd 2009 by Puffin Books (first published 1966)

ISBN : 9780142413852

Author : Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 96 pages

Genre : Childrens, Fantasy, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Magic Finger for online ebook

Ferdy says

Not my favourite Roald Dahl, it wasn't quite as magical or memorable as *Matilda* or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, nevertheless it was still a quick, fun story about talking ducks and a girl with a magic finger.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The magic finger, Roald Dahl

The Magic Finger is a fantasy story written by Roald Dahl in 1962. It was first published in the United States, by Harper & Row in 1966, as a picture book illustrated by William Pène du Bois. The Magic Finger is narrated by an eight-year-old girl growing up on a farm in the English countryside, next door to the Gregg family who have a passion for hunting. The titular "Magic Finger" is an ability she has that activates inadvertently whenever she gets intensely angry: the finger shoots out a beam of energy that apparently seeks out whoever has angered the girl, with unpredictable consequences.

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Ahmed Ejaz says

There is a girl who has a magical finger. We don't know her name. Anyway, it doesn't matter because she is just a narrator of the book.

This book is about Mr. Gregg and his family. They hunt for pleasure. The Girl, our narrator, forbids them but they don't listen. And by accident, her finger magically turns them into the bird.

After that they face hardships of bird's life and get to know that how it feels to face a gun.

This is a children book. I read it for my younger cousin for his school's work. I liked it. But there were very obvious plot holes. Of course it's a children book. So it doesn't feel that bad.

August 4, 2017

Matt says

On this mini-binge of Dahl writing, I came across this short story that speaks volumes to the younger generation. Our young narrator speaks about the Gregg family, known for their hunting trips that scare much of the wildlife in the area. The reader learns of a secret power possessed by the narrator, whereby an itching feeling from the tip of the finger leads to a small white flash and then all is changed for the better. During one of their hunts, the Greggs are unknowingly zapped by this 'magic' finger while the narrator watches, which turn the hunted ducks into a small flock of pests that chase the Gregg family back to their cottage. After a night of fitful rest, all four members of the family arise to find that their hands have been replaced with wings and they are banished outside, forced to fend for themselves. For the following day, the Greggs must fly around and try to find food, while a family of four human-sized ducks inhabit their home. Having learned their lesson, the Greggs try to regain some sense of normalcy in their lives, while also seeking to make a change for the better. Dahl impresses with this story that teeters on the edge of silliness, while also instilling some valuable lessons for the reader. Perfect for a coffee break or a snuggle up with some younger ones before bed.

Dahl knows how to pull on all aspects of story writing to keep children interested while also bringing forth important lessons. The reader will see some of the humour and silliness within this story, but also sense a serious side that Dahl wants to express, in this case the importance of respecting all that lives in the community, be it other humans, flora, or even fauna. If memory serves, this was one story that earned Dahl a significant amount of money when he was still getting into the children's genre (before Charlie Bucket and The BFG). It shows in the writing, as he was still more serious in his delivery. Life lessons abound in this story and the reader is left to hope for more pieces with powerful moral undertones. An entertaining piece that should not be missed by readers young and old.

Kudos, Mr. Dahl for all your delightful work. Children of many generations can surely rely on being entertained and educated with these wonderful pieces.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Trish says

It's almost tradition that the first book of the year is one by Roald Dahl. This year, I've chosen a book about an 8-year-old girl that remains unnamed (first-person narrator), who lives next door to a family with two boys. Both boys go hunting with their dad every day, which doesn't sit right with the girl since killing animals just for fun is wrong (I completely agree).

But this is no normal girl because she has the titular magic finger and when she gets angry ...

The story is a classic but no less wonderful tale of the value of life and how humans often think animals less. As usual in Roald Dahl's stories, they are being taught the error of their ways - and in a pretty funny way too. This is one of his shorter stories but has immediately become one of my favourites!

As usual, I have the edition with Quentin Blake's wonderful black-and-white illustrations that not only capture the spirit of the story but also its fine, schadenfreude-laden humour. A wonderful way to start the New Year.

James says

Not Roald Dahl at his finest - nevertheless a good short entertaining book with the usual great illustrations by Quentin Blake.

For anyone who doesn't agree with hunting birds for 'sport'.....

For anyone who ever got angry and wanted revenge.....

Starjustin says

Written in 1964 Roald Dahl's 'The Magic Finger' is a lesson well taught through a little girls magical finger. This lovely children's book is illustrated throughout by Quentin Blake. This was my second Roald Dahl book and I am looking forward to reading many more. Highly recommended!

Michael Finocchiaro says

Stay out of her way - or she'll zap you! The book The Magic Finger is a wonderful story about controlling your temper from the ever-exuberant and humorous Roald Dahl. Up there in the second tier of my favourite Dahl books!

Lily C says

Lol, 1st book for the Booktube-A-Thon complete!

Miriam says

No hunting! It is mean! Plus, you never know when your psycho neighbor is going to flip out and and punish you with her "Magic Finger" (does that sound dirty to anyone else?). Better to stay inside where it's safe. Don't answer the door to any kids, or ducks.

This seems preachier than is the norm for Dahl. The magic isn't developed, and we don't spend enough time with the narrator to know her or care about her. The way in which the narrator characterized her magic finger as something outside herself and not under her control, while Dahl makes it clear that her feelings direct what happens, could have led to a really interesting psychological examination of anger and action and valuable points about responsibility and self-control. I would rather have had a longer book that dealt with those issues.

Agir(????) says

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Brendon Schrodinger says

I never got around to reading this one as a kid - the library didn't have a copy and it looks like I never found it in a second-hand bookstore. Did I miss out on anything? No.

The Magic Finger is the story of an unnamed girl. The girl has a magic finger which blasts people for being asses. There's a little backstory, how she got her teacher, and then it's onto the main event - a hunter and his boys who shoot ducks. This makes the girl angry!

Simple, moral, a touch of Dahl. But, despite the title, no magic - no Dahl magic. It amused me for about 20 minutes, and the baby was quiet for 20 minutes. But it's no Matilda or Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Mischenko says

You can also see my review @ <https://readrantrockandroll.com/2018/...>

The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl is a story about a girl with a magic finger. She lives next door to the Gregg family who like to hunt for fun and this makes her very angry. She doesn't think it's right for people to hunt animals for fun and when she gets angry, her finger takes control. Her magic finger has a special lesson in store, but the big problem is not knowing exactly what will happen when she uses it.

The story teaches a huge lesson to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I read this with two of my younger children and we all enjoyed it. It's certainly thought-provoking and inspired an entire conversation with my family about eating meat and how we should be responsible and care for the animals we have. It will also get you thinking about why it's important to control your disposition because actions always have consequences.

5*****

Miranda Reads says

Remind me not to piss off this girl

The Girl with the Magic Finger often lashes out. She can't help it - if she gets mad at an injustice, **her finger does something...magical**. She did it once to a terrible teacher - with disastrous consequences. She tries her best to avoid using it but sometimes, it just happens.

The **Gregg family loves to hunt** - oftentimes for sport rather than need - and the poor girl has to watch them bring in all these dead animals every week. She witnesses the Gregg family kill bird after bird (bringing home **sixteen of them one day**) and in her anger, she points at them with that magic finger. And thus begins the Gregg family's **harrowing journey and path to redemption**.

The plot felt more than a little **heavy-handed** - with the Gregg family painted as complete and utterly evil. I do agree that over-hunting for fun should always be avoided but to paint the family as that bad? And the plight they are **forced to suffer** seemed more than a little extreme.

Overall, not Dahl's best but certainly better than the worst.

Audiobook

Narrated by Kate Winslet, this story was delightful to listen to. She does an excellent job with tone and characterization!

Blog | Instagram

Mariah says

I really enjoyed this story! It was a fast, easy read that was very entertaining.

This story would be a perfect fantasy story about animal rights. The main character lives next door to a family that loves to hunt birds. She doesn't like that they are hurting animals, so she tries to talk them out of it, but they only laugh at her. Then one day the family goes too far and kills a ton of birds. This makes the main character angry and when she is angry her finger starts to tingle. She didn't mean to turn her magic finger on the family, but when the little girl is angry her Magic Finger takes over. It turned the family into birds! This forces them to live in a nest, eat nonhuman food and more. Then more problems keep arising...

I suggest this book to anyone that likes short stories and Roald Dahl's amazing writing :)
