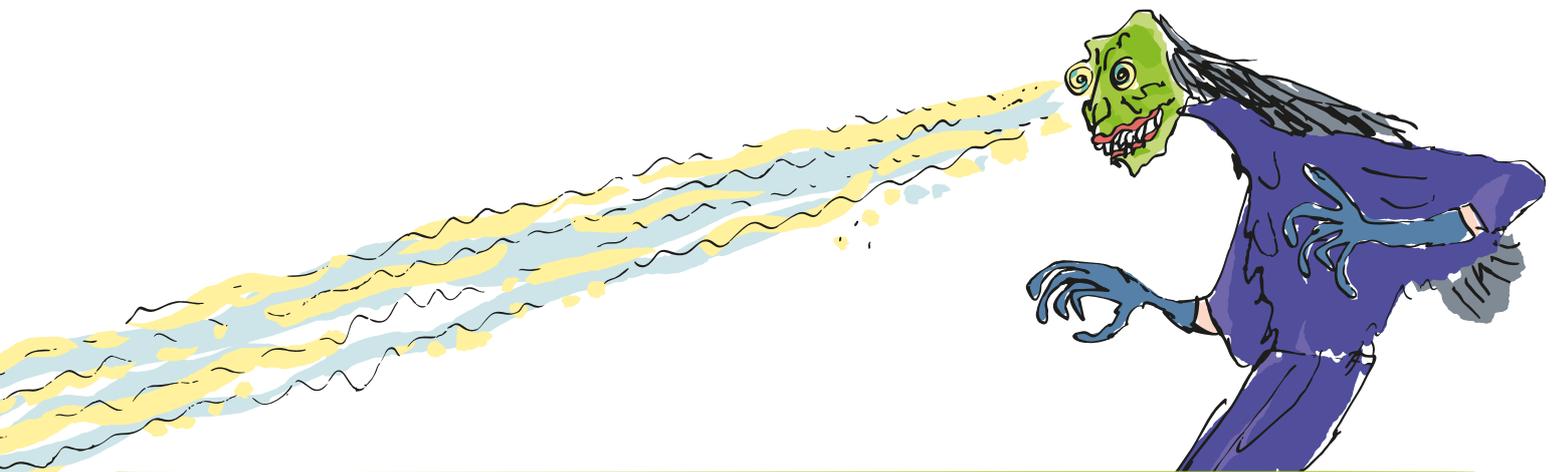




WATCH THE OFFICIAL **WORLD BOOK DAY BEDTIME STORY** AND THEN IN GROUPS OR AS A CLASS DISCUSS THE VIDEO USING THE PROMPTS BELOW TO HELP DRIVE YOUR CONVERSATION.

1. This extract, which opens the novel, begins with the author highlighting the difference between fairy-tale and REAL WITCHES and stressing the difficulty in telling the difference between a witch and any other person. Why do you think Roald Dahl decided to open the novel in this way?
2. In which ways do REAL WITCHES differ from normal people? In which ways are they similar? Why are REAL WITCHES so dangerous to children? What could children do to avoid REAL WITCHES?
3. Roald Dahl's REAL WITCHES live amongst humans and are hard to distinguish from normal people. Does this make them more or less scary? Why? If you were creating a scary character what characteristics would you give them?
4. How did the reader of this extract (Stanley Tucci) help to build a sense of atmosphere? Did he raise or lower his voice? Did he speak quickly or slowly? Did he use facial expressions or gesture to help him tell the story? Was this effective? Why?



## BONUS TASK :

Write your own story opening introducing a scary character. Think about what makes your character different and scary - do they look scary or is it the way that they act? Consider the characteristics you discussed earlier and don't be afraid to get creative! Share your story opening with the person next to you or, if you're feeling extra brave, share it with your whole class.

**Want to find out what happens next? Read the rest of the story in Roald Dahl's *The Witches* and watch out for the upcoming film, *The Witches*, scheduled for release in October 2020!**