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Category: Junior Question 2

Book: Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl

What makes you happy? Is it your iPhone 6 or maybe a PlayStation Portable? Imagine living in a house of 20 square feet. Imagine not having a proper stove, oven or fridge. No television, no computer and certainly no Wi-Fi. That's the world that little Danny lives in from the story Danny the Champion of the World, written by Roald Dahl. He lives with his father in a tiny caravan and barely leaves his house, until ONE DAY his father lets him in on an exciting secret! They embark on a journey into the Hazel Woods in the middle of the night to do the unimaginable – to STEAL.

Danny the Champion of the World is not just another one of Dahl's stylish books; it carries special messages.

First, create fun and happiness with whatever you have in front of you. Danny's life, in the eyes of many, is very unfortunate. However, the fabulous relationship between Danny and his father reflects how a delighted childhood could be. Being "the most marvelous and exciting father a boy ever had", Danny's father walks Danny to school while telling him interesting things like how to be a car mechanic. He tells Danny wild stories every night and makes his world imaginative and fun. Observing the childhood of Danny, I appreciated the value of love and happiness.

Danny says, "during my early years, I never had a moment's unhappiness". Along the lines, you will learn that happiness is not about materials, nor fame, but positive mind and unfailing love.

Second, sometimes you need to be creative to reach your goals. Mr. Hazell is the "baddie" of the story but he has money, staff and influence. Danny and his father feel justified in poaching on Mr. Hazell's land because he is so unpleasant. Danny came up with the hilarious sleeping pills idea to catch all the pheasants. That became the most effective method and got Danny the title in his town – The Champion of the World. This book is educational in this aspect as Dahl was using Danny's acts to arouse your attention on being smart and creative to solve problems.

I highly recommend this book to all students, young and old, for the insights it provides to readers. In such an unsteady and confusing world, Roald Dahl's books always remind us the diverse qualities of human nature and teach us the desirable attitude towards life.