**Article of the Week # 10**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* Circle words that are unfamiliar and define using context clues.

\* Write **at least 5** comments that show you understand the text.

\* Underline **3** lines in the text that you have questions about Write your question in the margins.

\* Highlight information that shows Roald Dahl’s contribution to the medical community

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| **Annotation Rubric** | Exceeds Expectations | Meets Expectations | Progressing | Not There Yet |
| **Strong** evidence of interaction with the text. | **Good** evidence of interaction with the text. | **Some** evidence of interaction with the text. | **Little/no** evidence of interaction with the text. |
| **50 points** | **40 points** | **30 points** | **20 points**(or below) |

**Roald Dahl was fascinated by medicine** Adapted from the Washington Post, November 2016

In 1952, Roald Dahl volunteered for a medical experiment being run out of a New York Hospital. By this point, the 36-year-old had already started to make a name for himself as a writer, with stories published in several big newspapers, but his decision to sign up for a medical study came from a place of pure curiosity.

“They stuffed the tube up my nose and right down into the stomach and left it there for two hours,” he wrote later to his mother. Parts of the procedure Dahl found “unpleasant,” but mostly he **marveled** at being able to see the medical world up close. “The machine said there was nothing wrong with my own stomach,” he decided, “but I’m going again because they find out a lot each time.”

This kind of behavior was not unusual for the author of “[Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0142410314?ie=UTF8&tag=thewaspos09-20&camp=1789&linkCode=xm2&creativeASIN=0142410314).” While Dahl is known around the world for his energetic children’s books, he also held a quieter, **fascination** with medicine that spanned his entire adult life. That passion not only crept into Dahl’s fiction over the years, but even led to the writer’s making some groundbreaking contributions to the field.

He led **vaccination** awareness campaigns and invented a medical device that was implanted in thousands of children. And when his first wife suffered a stroke, Dahl helped to come up with a treatment. “He’s almost single-handedly changed our approach to stroke recovery,” says Tom Solomon, a British neurologist, “and helped to develop a process that we will follow today with patients.”

“He was definitely a fixer. All during our lives he was a fixer,” says Dahl’s daughter Ophelia. “If there was a problem, he felt you should be able to address it with enough know-how and imagination.”

Dahl’s fascination with medicine began at an early age. At boarding school, he kept a notebook documenting reasons why students visited the school nurse.

Rather than pursue medicine as a career, however, Dahl wound up joining the army and fighting for England in WWII. His plane crashed in a North African desert, leaving him temporarily blind and in need of several surgeries on his spine. For many years he kept a jar of **preserved** spinal shavings on his writing desk.

It wasn’t until a series of tragedies struck his family that Dahl made his contributions to the medical community. In 1960, while in the US, his 4-month-old son’s carriage [was struck by a taxi](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/authors/roald-dahls-darkest-hour/) while crossing the street in New York City; baby Theo was launched 40 feet into the air before colliding with the side of a bus.

Theo’s skull was shattered, but he survived, with the help of a shunt that drained excess fluid from around his brain. But these shunts contained tiny slits that could easily get blocked by bits of debris. Theo’s shunt would malfunction six times over the next nine months, each requiring a frantic return trip to the hospital and another intense surgery.

Dahl was furious that so much pain and suffering could be caused by this one tiny instrument. So he started looking into how shunts were made, and he discussed ways of improving them with one of Theo’s doctors, Kenneth Till. With the help of toymaker and engineer Stanley Wade, they developed the Wade-Dahl-Till (WDT) valve, which was eventually fitted in 3,000 to 5,000 children around the world.

Just two years later, tragedy struck again. Dahl’s eldest daughter, Olivia, [came down with the measles and suddenly died](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/roald-dahls-open-letter-about-his-daughter-dying-from-measles-becomes-touchpoint-for-current-us-10019824.html) of a rare type of brain **inflammation** caused by the virus. After mourning his daughter’s death, Dahl lead a national awareness campaign to increase vaccination rates among British children. “A pop star has teenage appeal and power,” Dahl told reporters, “I have great child power. I understand how a child’s mind works — that’s how I can help and influence.”

For the rest of his life, Dahl would retain a keen interest in medicine. He continually referred to himself as a “frustrated doctor,” and his second wife, Felicity Crosland, used to tell the story of a plane ride they took where a fellow passenger needed medical attention. A flight attendant asked whether there was a doctor onboard, and Dahl had to be physically restrained from jumping to his feet. His 1981 book “[George’s Marvelous Medicine](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0142410357?ie=UTF8&tag=thewaspos09-20&camp=1789&linkCode=xm2&creativeASIN=0142410357)” about a boy who takes revenge on his grouchy grandmother by replacing her medicine with a mixture of shampoo, horse pills and floor polish is amusingly dedicated to “doctors everywhere.”

But as for taking credit for his contributions to medical care, Dahl was very shy. Dahl left all the credit to others.

“To be honest, it makes no sense to me,” Tom Solomon says. “Because he always wanted to be a doctor. His books were full of heroes who, often against the odds, overcame the authorities and came up with something amazing and fantastic. Maybe he didn’t recognize that in himself.”

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| **Monday:** Read the article and follow the annotation directions at the top of the page. |
| **Tuesday:** Based on the definition, choose the synonym (same meaning) for each word.

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| **1.Marveled** | Something that causes wonder  | 1. Be amazed B. Question C. Confusion
 |
| **2. Fascination** | Capture interest or hold attention  | 1. Interest B. Boredom C. Dislike
 |
| **3. Vaccination** | An injection to help prevent diseases  | 1. Illness B. Immunization C. medicine
 |
| **4. Preserved** | To keep, make lasting  | 1. Unsafe B. United C. Unspoiled
 |
| **5. Inflammation** | Swelling in an area of the body | 1. Irritation B. Calming C. Stable
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| **Wednesday:** Answer the questions below in **complete sentences.** **6.** What is Roald Dahl known for? Why is it surprising that he was so interested in medicine?**7.** At the beginning of the article, why did the author of the article include the information about Dahl participating in the medical study? **8.** What did Roald Dahl contribute to the medical community?**9.** What are two tradegies that happened in Dahl’s life that caused him to get involved in the medical community?10. Why did Dahl feel that he could help influence children and their parents to get vaccinations?  |
| **Thursday:** Correct and **rewrite** the following sentences. Be sure to have correct spelling, proper capitalization and sentence structure (no fragments or run-ons!) 11. ronald dalh was an author who wrote boks he was interested in medicine 12. Roald dahl was from england he is known for writing the book charlie and the chocolate factory.13. opelia remembers that her father was a “fixer”14. dahls book george’s marvelous medicine is dedicated to doctors Everywhere. 15. When he was 30 six, dahl participated in a medicial study in a new york hospital.  |

**Interested in this topic? Check out the following links!**Information about the shunt Dahl helped invent: <http://tinyurl.com/zshzxes>
Informatiom about Dahl, the inventor: <http://tinyurl.com/gpamq5j>

Roald Dahl biography: <http://tinyurl.com/hsj5avd>

Video in honor of what would have been Dahl’s 100th bday, September 13th, 2016!: <http://tinyurl.com/hnp7zan>