



Les 7 Sciences Po du réseau

# EXAMEN COMMUN D'ENTRÉE EN PREMIÈRE ANNÉE

## ÉPREUVE D'ANGLAIS

**SAMEDI 20 AVRIL 2024**

**14h00 à 17h00**

**(Durée conseillée: 1h00)**

**coeff. 2**

**Ce sujet est composé de 3 pages**

Il est demandé aux candidats de répondre directement sur leur copie en indiquant clairement les numéros des exercices.

[Aucun document autorisé]

## **Yes, Roald Dahl was a bigot. But that's no excuse to rewrite his books**

By Francine Prose, *The Guardian*, March 6th 2023

Recently it was announced that the novels of Roald Dahl, the notoriously bigoted but gifted and enduringly popular children's author, had been edited to eliminate words, phrases and sentiments that readers might find upsetting. Novels have been cleansed of negative references to a character's appearance, race or gender. "Enormously fat" had been changed to "enormous", "mothers" and "fathers" to the more gender-neutral "parents". The adjective "black" was eliminated, even in reference to objects. (...)

Dahl died in 1990. The changes were made by his estate in partnership with Inclusive Minds, an organization that promotes diversity in books for children. Plans were made to market the doctored books as providing a more reader-friendly experience. (...)

Just to be clear: I think it's wrong to rewrite the words of an author, living or dead, without the author's permission. Writers work hard to get their sentences right. Maybe Dahl preferred the sound of "enormously fat" to the sound of "enormous". (...) If the writer has used language that has, for all the right reasons, gone out of use, it's important to tell young readers that people used to say things and think about other people in ways that were wrong. We no longer use those words, we no longer subscribe to those stereotypes. If Dahl says a character is ugly, it's a teachable moment. (...)

Let's not ask if "enormous" is really less hurtful than "fat". Let's ignore the question of whether a child will become a bully, a misogynist, a racist or a serial killer after reading a Roald Dahl novel. If I were looking for where trouble starts, I'd check the families before the bookshelves. (...)

What was behind it, anyway? Several writers (...) have pointed to that rarest of motives: money. The tidying up of Dahl's work was a kind of rebranding, a marketing ploy designed to protect valuable intellectual property, and a wise move for Netflix, which has acquired the rights to Dahl's work. (...)

We don't want our children and grandchildren exposed, before they need to be, to the horrors of the not-nice world. But we also don't want them to get accustomed to being lied to. Why not trust our kids with the truth?

## Questions

### I. Reading Comprehension (6 points):

**Instructions:** In your own words, answer the following questions about the text using complete sentences. Concise answers are expected.

1. What has recently happened to Road Dahl's books? (1 pt)
2. What does "Inclusive Minds" (paragraph 2) try to achieve? (1 pt)
3. According to the author, what attitude should be adopted when it comes to children and reading? (2pts)
4. What does the author mean when she writes: "If Dahl says a character is ugly, it's a teachable moment" (paragraph 3)? (1 pt)
5. What does the author imply when she writes: "If I were looking for where trouble starts, I'd check the families before the bookshelves"(paragraph 4)? (1 pt)

### II. Writing (14 points):

**Instructions:** Write an essay on the topic below (300 words, +/- 10 %). Feel free to provide examples from other countries or other historical periods.

Should children be protected from the horrors of the world?