

Helping you choose books for children



0-5



5-7



7-9



9-12



12+

Opening extract from

Songs and Verse

Written by

Roald Dahl

Published by

Puffin Books

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Please print off and read at your leisure.

The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

from THE GIRAFFE AND THE PELLY AND ME

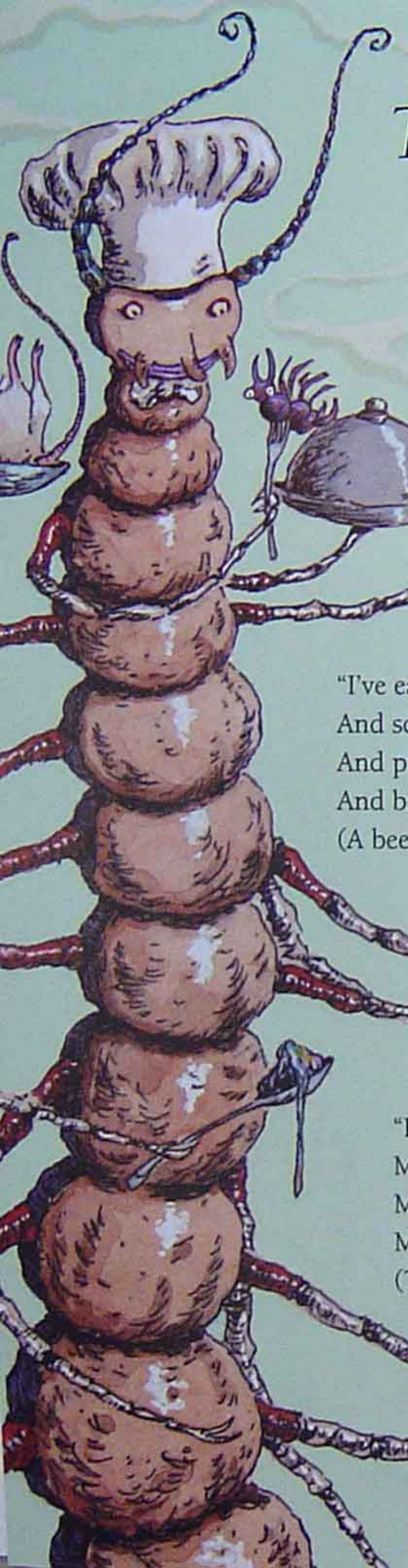
Illustrated by Chris Wormell

We will polish your glass
Till it's shining like brass
And it sparkles like sun on the sea!
We are quick and polite,
We will come day or night,
The Giraffe and the Pelly and me!

We're a fabulous crew,
We know just what to do,
And we never stop work to drink tea.
All your windows will glow
When we give them a go,
The Giraffe and the Pelly and me!

We use water and soap
Plus some kindness and hope,
But we never use ladders, not we.
Who needs ladders at all
When you're thirty feet tall?
Not Giraffe, and not Pelly! Not me!



A large, brown, segmented centipede with many pairs of thin legs is the central figure. It has a human-like face with large eyes and a wide, toothy grin. It is holding a silver serving bell in its front legs. The background is a light greenish-blue with faint, stylized clouds. Various insects are scattered around: a small fly near the top left, a scorpion on the right, a snail and two beetles below it, a jar of jam and several beetles in the middle right, and a wasp and a bucket of green goo at the bottom right.

The Centipede's Song

from JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

Illustrated by Joel Stewart

"I've eaten many strange and scrumptious dishes in my time,
Like jellied gnats and dandyprats and earwigs cooked in slime,
And mice with rice – they're really nice
When roasted in their prime.

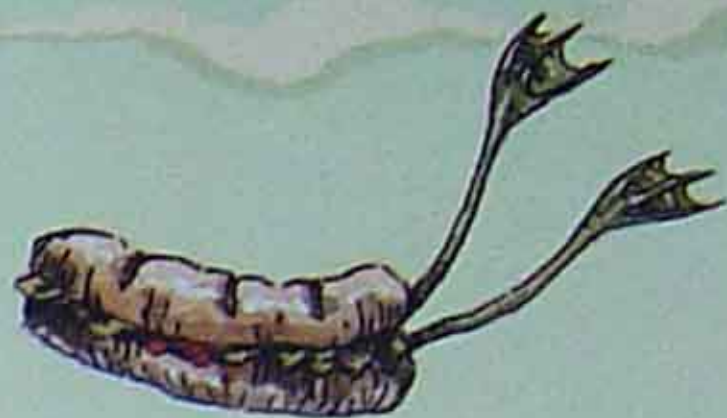
(But don't forget to sprinkle them with just a pinch of grime.)

"I've eaten fresh mudburgers by the greatest cooks there are,
And scrambled dregs and stinkbugs' eggs and hornets stewed in tar,
And pails of snails and lizards' tails,
And beetles by the jar.

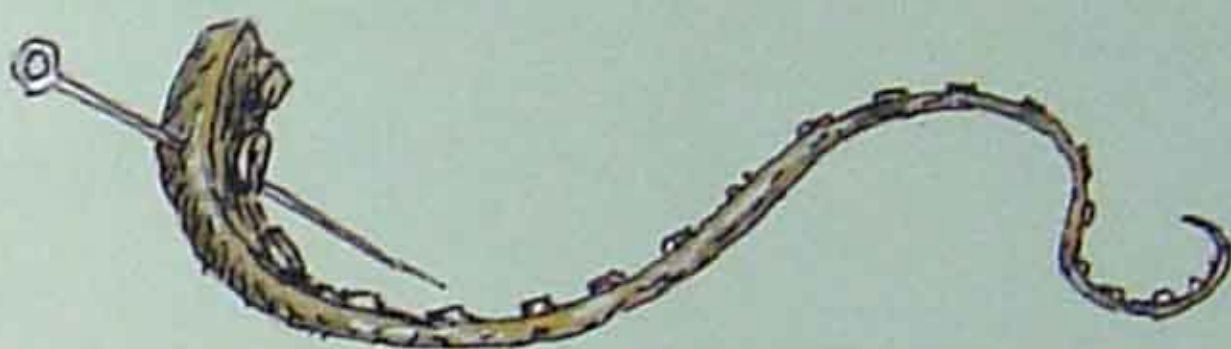
(A beetle is improved by just a splash of vinegar.)

"I often eat boiled slobbages. They're grand when served beside
Minced doodlebugs and curried slugs. And have you ever tried
Mosquitoes' toes and wampfish roes
Most delicately fried?

(The only trouble is they disagree with my inside.)



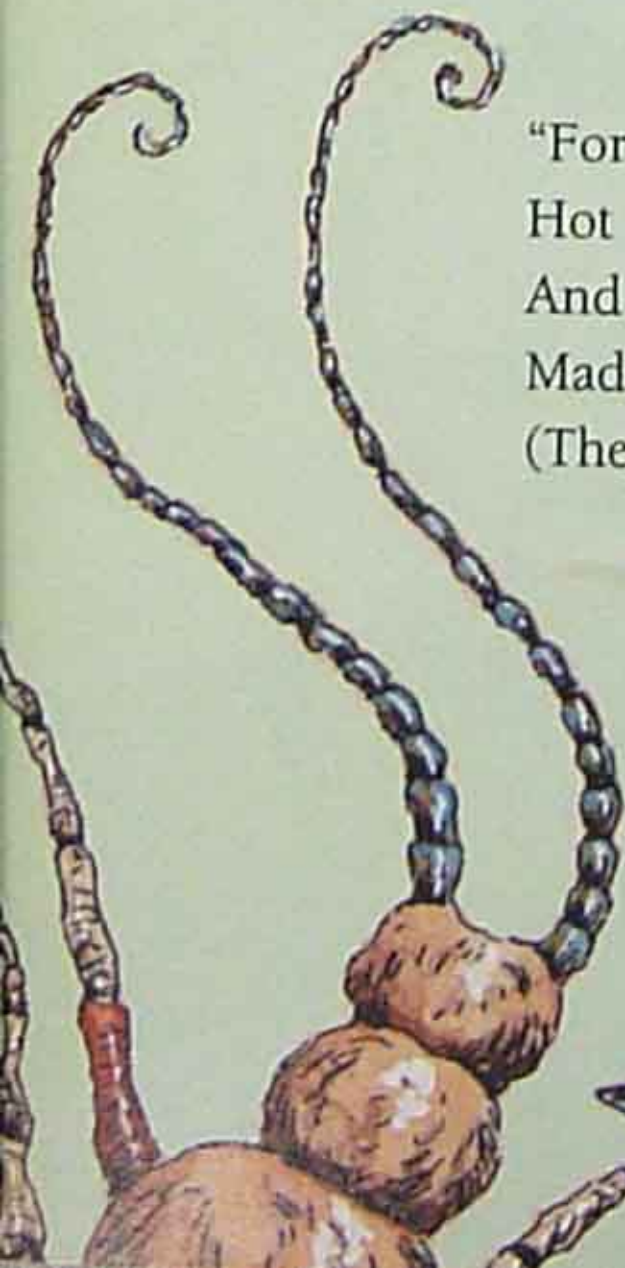
"I'm mad for crispy wasp-stings on a piece of buttered toast,
And pickled spines of porcupines. And then a gorgeous roast
Of dragon's flesh, well hung, not fresh –
It costs a pound at most.
(And comes to you in barrels if you order it by post.)



"I crave the tasty tentacles of octopi for tea
I like hot-dogs, I LOVE hot-frogs, and surely you'll agree
A plate of soil with engine oil's
A super recipe.
(I hardly need to mention that it's practically free.)



"For dinner on my birthday shall I tell you what I chose:
Hot noodles made from poodles on a slice of garden hose –
And a rather smelly jelly
Made of armadillo's toes.
(The jelly is delicious, but you have to hold your nose.)



Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs

from REVOLTING RHYMES

Illustrated by Babette Cole

When little Snow-White's mother died,
The king, her father, up and cried,
"Oh, what a nuisance! What a life!
Now I must find another wife!"
(It's never easy for a king
To find himself that sort of thing.)
He wrote to every magazine
And said, "I'm looking for a Queen."



SNOW-WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

At least ten thousand girls replied
And begged to be the royal bride.
The king said with a shifty smile,
"I'd like to give each one a trial."

