



6e ENTRANCE TEST

Danny the Champion of the World

By Roald Dahl

“But now that I was five years old, there was the problem of school to think about. It was the law that parents must send their children to school at the age of five, and my father knew about this.

We were in the workshop, I remember, on my fifth birthday, when the talk about school started. I was helping my father to fit new brake linings to the rear wheel of a big Ford when suddenly he said to me, “You know something interesting, Danny? You must be easily the best five-year-old mechanic in the world.”

This was the greatest compliment he had ever paid me. I was enormously pleased.

“You like this work, don’t you?” he said. “All this messing about with engines.”

“I absolutely love it,” I said.

He turned and faced me and laid a hand gently on my shoulder. “I want to teach you to be a great mechanic,” he said. “And when you grow up, I hope you will become a famous designing engineer, a man who designs new and better engines for cars and aeroplanes. For that,” he added, “you will need a really good education. But I don’t want to send you to school quite yet. In another two years you will have learned enough here with me to be able to take a small engine completely to pieces and put it together again all by yourself. After that, you can go to school.

You probably think my father was crazy trying to teach a young child to be an expert mechanic, but as a matter of fact he wasn’t crazy at all. I learned fast and I adored every moment of it. And luckily for us, nobody came knocking on the door to ask why I wasn’t attending school.

So two more years went by, and at the age of seven, believe it or not, I really could take a small engine to pieces and put it together again. I mean properly to pieces, pistons and crankshafts and all. The time had come to start school.

My school was in the nearest village, two miles away. We didn’t have a car of our own. We couldn’t afford one. But the walk took only half an hour and I didn’t mind that in the least. My father came with me. He insisted on coming. And when school ended at four in the afternoon, he was always there waiting to walk me home. “

Discussion questions

Answer in complete sentences.

1. Why did the boy not go to school when he was five?
2. How do we know his father was pleased with him?
3. What does a mechanic do?
4. How old was the boy when he started school?
5. Why did he have to walk there?
6. Was the school in town?
7. What does his father hope he will be when he's older?

Essay: *Write a story of at least one and a half page.*

Imagine you are Danny, the boy in the story. Write about your day at school.