



## **MS. TRUNCHBULL**

*Miss Trunchbull, the Headmistress, was something else altogether. She was a fierce tyrannical monster who frightened the life out of the pupils and teachers alike. There was an aura of menace about her even at a distance, and when she came up close you could almost feel the dangerous heat radiating from her as from a red-hot rod of metal. When she marched—Miss Trunchbull never walked, she always marched like a storm-trooper with long strides and arms aswinging – when she marched along a corridor you could actually hear her snorting as she went, and if a group of children were in her path, she ploughed right on through them like a tank, with small people bouncing off her to left and right. She was above all a most formidable female. She had once been a famous athlete, and even now the muscles were clearly in evidence. You could see them in the bull neck, in the big shoulders, in the thick arms, in the sinewy wrists and in the powerful legs. Looking at her you got the feeling that here was someone who could tear telephone directories in half. Her face, I'm afraid to say, was neither a thing of beauty nor a joy forever. She had an obstinate chin, a cruel mouth and small arrogant eyes.*

### Questions:

- What does 'tyrannical' mean?
- Why does Roald Dahl say Ms Trunchbull terrified pupils AND teacher? What effect does that have?
- In line 4, what verb and simile does Roald Dahl use to describe how the Trunchbull travels?
- Roald Dahl says that when the Trunchbull travelled, you could hear her snorting as she went. This makes her seem like a certain animal. What animal does she sound like and why does the writer choose to do this?
- What was the Trunchbull's previous career before she became a headteacher?
- Describe the Trunchbull's appearance using exact quotations from the text.
- If you met the Trunchbull, what might you ask her? (If you are brave enough...)