



PARSON'S PLEASURE

1. Get in groups of three and find out if anyone in the group knows the meaning of the word parson.
2. What personal qualities do you associate with such a character and what hobbies or interests you think he would have?
3. The following text gives you some information about the author and the main character in the short story. From the information given, what extra personal qualities and interests does the character have?

Although Roald Dahl's parents were Norwegian, he was born and brought up in Great Britain, and always wrote in English. He lived and travelled in many different countries and began writing stories in the United States, during the Second World War.

As a writer, Dahl concentrated on short stories and became a very distinguished craftsman able to write stories which are often very amusing but at the same time also involving an unexpected and bizarre twist of events. In Parson's Pleasure there are very amusing and excellently written passages of prose and gradually the reader becomes completely absorbed by the devious Mr Boggis's attempt to persuade the apparently ignorant farmers to part with their extremely valuable comode for almost nothing

More Modern Short Stories
For students of English,
selected and edited by Peter JW Taylor
Oxford University Press 1981
p. 32

4. Speculate amongst yourselves how this man managed to get the confidence of the farmers.
5. Have you ever been tricked in a similar or different way? Talk about your experiences.

Read the story at home and we will talk about it again in the next session. We'll try to answer some questions together. I'm interested in knowing if you have enjoyed the story and if you'd like to read something else by the same author. At the self access centre, there is a worksheet at your disposal, in case you are interested in doing some extra work on the story.