



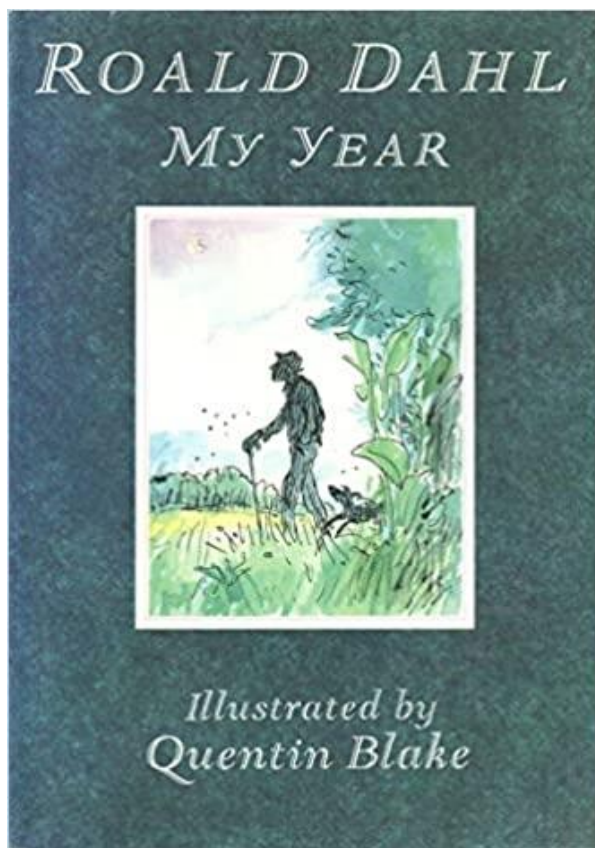
Suntrap Book Review

My Year

Author Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

Published by Penguin Random House £9.00 (digital)

Age range: Nine to twelve year olds



Description

Ever wondered how to rid your garden of moles? Do you know how to produce a first class conker? Here is a chance to find out by reading My Year, the diary of a year in the life of Roald Dahl, gardener, mole deceiver and conker champion.

It is an inspirational and memorable concoction of hilarious childhood anecdotes, witty adult observations and delightfully strange gardening tips. The author's personal reminiscences of boyhood exploits, interwoven with adult observations on various natural phenomena of the English countryside.

Each short chapter covers one month and addresses some peculiarity of one or more species of plant or animal (magpie, mole, mosquito, saffron, cuckoo, foxglove, etc.). These recollections speak to children in the comfortable manner of an elderly man addressing his grandchildren.

Blake has lovingly highlighted the pages with many soft, sketchy watercolour illustrations.

Reviews



'The renowned author describes the natural world as he recalls childhood feelings and events, including memories of cherished toys and games, and a spectacular prank...paternal, factual and confessional ('I had learnt even at that tender age that there are no secrets unless you keep them to yourself, and this was the greatest secret I had ever had to keep in my life so far'). Throughout, Dahl comes through strongly as a genial, witty and occasionally eccentric soul. Blake's watercolour and ink illustrations, simultaneously defined and soft, and made whimsical with curvy lines, are an ideal match.' Publisher's Weekly

'What My Year also does is underpin Roald's famous exhortation to 'look at the world with glittering eyes' and find magic in unlikely places'. The Guardian