

BOY BY ROALD DAHL
SECTION ST PETER'S, 1925-9

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What does Dahl suggest all headmasters said to parents to save the school's food bill?
 They encouraged them to send food from home as school was purely a money-making operation owned and operated by the Headmaster (pg 71).
2. What does the Headmaster say to Mrs Dahl that sounds reassuring when Roald and her arrive at the school?
 "Goodbye, Mrs Dahl. I shouldn't linger if I were you. We'll look after him." (pg 73)
3. Which phrase suggests to us that the Headmaster might not be as pleasant as he seems?
 "He advanced upon my mother and shook her by the hand, then he shook me by the hand and as he did so he gave me the kind of flashing grin a shark might give to a small fish just before he gobbles it up." (pg 73)
4. Why was letter-writing 'a serious business' at St Peter's?
 "It was as much a lesson in spelling and punctuation as anything else because the Headmaster would patrol the classroom all through the session, peering over our shoulders to read what we were writing and to point out our mistakes." (pg 76)
5. How does the Headmaster prevent parents from knowing he has censored the boys' letters home?
 Although he pointed out their mistakes to them and made them stay in and write it out fifty times, the boys were not allowed to correct the mistake in the letter (pg 77).
6. Why is Matron so terrifying?
 She rules the dormitory and has the authority to send boys downstairs to the Headmaster's study which automatically results in a caning. (pg 79)
7. What does Matron do to the boys when the lint is stuck to the cuts on their knees that Dahl uses as an example to show she does not like small boys?
 "... and when for example the lint stuck to your kneecap, you were not allowed to take it off yourself bit by bit so that it didn't hurt. She would always whip it off with a flick of her hand, muttering, "Don't be such a ridiculous little baby!" (pg 80)
8. Write a paragraph explaining Roald Dahl's opinion of St Peter's school. You should use examples from the text to illustrate Dahl's feelings.