

# Roald Dahl



## Danny the Champion of the World



illustrated by Quentin Blake



# 1

## The Filling Station

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WHEN I WAS four months old, my mother died suddenly and my father was left to look after me all by himself. This is how I looked at the time.



I had no brothers or sisters.

So all through my boyhood, from the age of four months onward, there was just us two, my father and me.





We lived in an old gypsy caravan behind a filling station. My father owned the filling station and the caravan and a small meadow behind, but that was about all he owned in the world. It was a very small filling station on a small country road surrounded by fields and woody hills.

While I was still a baby, my father washed me and fed me and changed my diapers and did all the millions of other things a mother normally does for her child. That is not an easy task for a man, especially when he has to earn his living at the same time by repairing automobile engines and serving customers with gasoline.



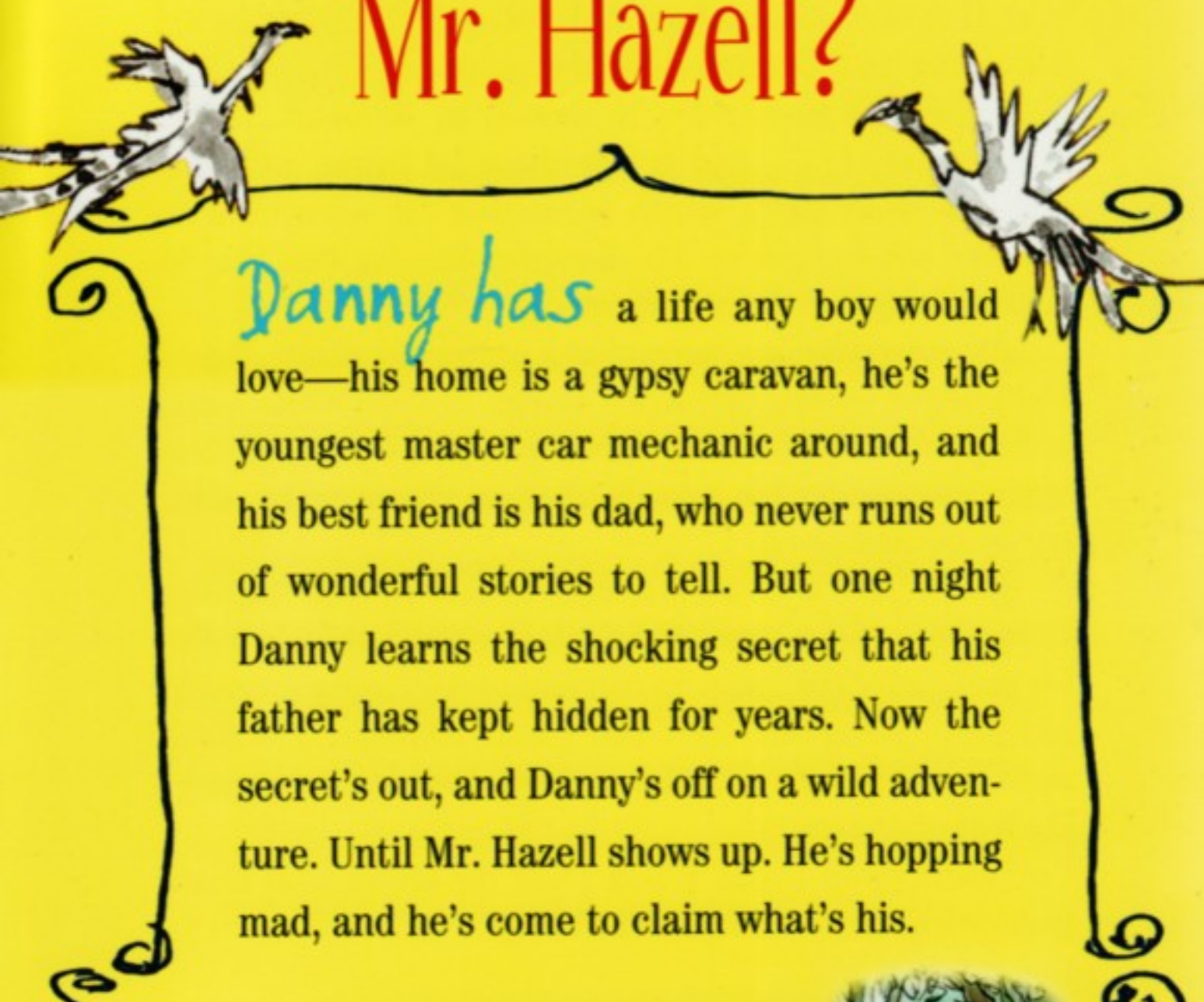
But my father didn't seem to mind. I think that all the love he had felt for my mother when she was alive he now lavished upon me. During my early years, I never had a moment's unhappiness or illness, and here I am on my fifth birthday.



I was now a scruffy little boy as you can see, with grease and oil all over me, but that was because I spent all day in the workshop helping my father with the automobiles.



# Can Danny and his father outsmart the villainous Mr. Hazell?



*Danny has* a life any boy would love—his home is a gypsy caravan, he's the youngest master car mechanic around, and his best friend is his dad, who never runs out of wonderful stories to tell. But one night Danny learns the shocking secret that his father has kept hidden for years. Now the secret's out, and Danny's off on a wild adventure. Until Mr. Hazell shows up. He's hopping mad, and he's come to claim what's his.



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