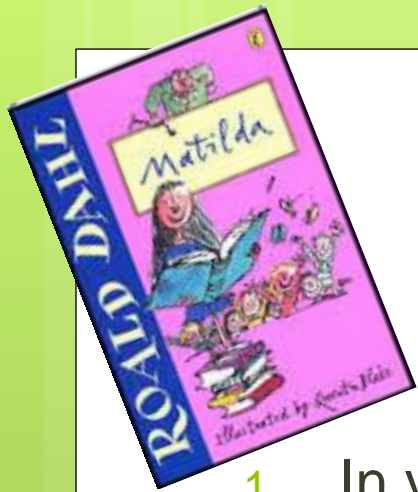


Matilda

By Roald Dahl

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Everyday life

1. In your jotters write two paragraphs about what a 'normal' week is for you.

Some questions to get you started are:

- * Do you walk your dog every morning?
- * Do you have dinner by yourself/with your sibling/as a family/you and you parent/s or care giver/s?
- * What time do you get up?
- * Do you have chores?
- * Do you live in town or out on a farm?
- * How far do you have to travel to get to school or the shops?

Fitting in



1. Have you ever felt like you were different? That no one else really understands you?
2. Write about a time when you were misunderstood or you stood out from the crowd. It can be a positive or a negative experience, it's up to you.
3. Remember to include a) what happened b) how you felt c) how the situation was resolved (fixed or finished) and d) what you have learned from the experience



My Mummy says I'm a miracle!



"It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting little blister you could ever imagine, they still think that he or she is wonderful. Some parents go even further. They become so blinded by adoration they manage to convince themselves their child has qualities of genius."

Opening extract from 'Matilda', by Roald Dahl (p. 7)



- ❖ What is Roald Dahl saying about parents in this extract?
- ❖ Do you agree with him? Why/why not?



The Reader of Books

1. Find five words used in this chapter that you may not have heard of before. Use a dictionary to find their definitions and note them down in your jotter.
2. List the extraordinary things Matilda was able to do by the time she was four.

- a. She has the language and motor skills to speak perfectly and ‘She knew as many words as most grown-ups’. (p. 1)

She ‘taught herself to read’ and ‘could read fast and well’.

3. Find an example that shows this book was written some time ago and explain **how** the examples demonstrates this.
- a. ‘We’ve got a lovely telly with a twelve-inch screen...’ (p. 12) Mr Wormwood thinks his television’s screen is extremely large. These days most people have at least a 32-inch screen and many people have TV screens which are even larger. Also, they only have one television and an awful lot of households these days have at least two, if not more.



The Reader of Books

4. *'...this allowed her two glorious hours sitting quietly by herself in a cosy corner devouring one book after another.'* (p. 13)
- a) What does 'devouring' mean?
- a. To swallow or eat up hungrily, voraciously (craving or consuming large quantities of food) or ravenously.
- b) What is the name of a technique used in this sentence (hint: there are two but you only have to name one)?
- a. Alliteration: **cosy corner**
- b. Metaphor: **devouring**
- c) Why did the author use this technique?
- a. Alliteration: to highlight the comfort Matilda finds in the library; it contrasts with her isolation at home.
- b. Metaphor: to demonstrate Matilda's need for literature. She needs to read like a starving person needs to eat.

Think about a book that transported you to another time and/or place.

- Write a paragraph describing the journey it took you on: the sites you saw; the aromas you smelled; the feelings you felt.

'...olden-day sailing ships with Joseph Conrad, Africa with Ernest Hemmingway, India with Rudyard Kipling' (p.21 'Matilda',)





Mr Wormwood, the Great Car Dealer

"No one ever got rich by being honest," (p. 23)

1. Do you agree with this statement?

Why/why not?

2. Do you think being wealthy is more important than helping people?

Why/why not?



3. Using information from chapters one and two describe Mr Wormwood's personality (you can draw a picture to go with your description if you wish).

The Hat and the Superglue



Connotation: noun.

the associated or secondary meaning of a word or expression in addition to its explicit or primary meaning.

E.g. A possible connotation of

"home" is "a place of warmth, comfort, and affection."

1. If the word 'beastly' denotes (literally means) *resembling a beast*, what might the connotations of the word 'beastly' be? Write your answers in a list in your jotter.

- a. Cruel
- b. Horrible
- c. Disgusting
- d. Hideous
- e. Monstrous
- f. Repulsive
- g. Vile
- h. Foul





The Hat and the Superglue



1. Why did Matilda put superglue on her father's hat?
 - a. He cheats his customers at his garage.
 - b. He wouldn't let her read her book instead of watching television.
 - c. He shouted at her for pointing out flaws in his argument (he said supper was a 'family gathering' at 'the table' when really they were eating off their laps watching the television).
2. What does it mean when Mr Wormwood wants to 'save face' (p. 32)?
 - a. He wants to avoid being humiliated/embarrassed. He doesn't want people to make fun of him.
3. Why does Mrs Wormwood turn pink (p. 34)?
 - a. Matilda points out that grown ups, Mrs Wormwood in particular, do put their fingers up their noses because she saw her mother doing it in the kitchen the day before.
4. Look up the word 'hypocrite' in the dictionary and write the definition in your jotter. Who do you think is a hypocrite in this chapter. Explain why you chose that character.
 - a. Hypocrite: a person who claims or pretends to have certain beliefs about what is right but who behaves in a way that disagrees with those beliefs
 - b. Mrs Wormwood, because she says that putting your finger up your nose is 'a nasty habit' and that people 'shouldn't put [their] finger up there', however, she picks her nose so she is saying one thing but doing another.



The Ghost





1. Why does Mr Wormwood tear out the pages of Matilda's library book?
 - a. He is in a bad mood.
 - b. He thinks the book is 'filth' because it's written by an American author.
 - c. He is 'fed up' with Matilda reading all the time instead of doing 'something useful'.
 - d. He is jealous because Matilda enjoys reading books and he doesn't, so he says they're stupid because he doesn't understand them.
2. What does 'counter-attack' mean? (p. 41)
 - a. To attack the person/people who attacked you.
3. Who is the ghost the chapter title refers to?
 - a. Fred's bird, 'Chopper'.
4. What does the reader learn about Mr Wormwood in this chapter. Explain your answer with evidence from the text.
 - a. That he is a bit of a coward: 'He seemed in no hurry to dash off and be a hero' (p. 45) and suggests they 'all go and look together' (p. 45) so he doesn't have to face a potential burglar on his own.
 - o Do you think Matilda's tricks on her family are justifiable? Why/why not?



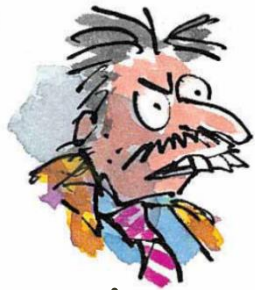


Arithmetic

7

1. What does the narrator say is the only kind of power that Matilda has over her family?
 - a. 'Brainpower' /intelligence/she is smarter than them/she could 'run rings around them all' because of her cleverness
2. Why is this power important? 
 - a. It stopped her from 'going round the bend' /from going crazy/it helped her cope with their meanness
3. What kind of power do you have in your family? Is it positive or negative? 





Arithmetic



Imagine you are Matilda. Devise a plan to get back at your father (Mr Wormwood) for calling you a 'cheat and a liar'. You may draw a diagram to demonstrate your explanation, if you wish.

Helpful
Tips

- You cannot use any of the tricks Matilda uses in the novel, film or musical.





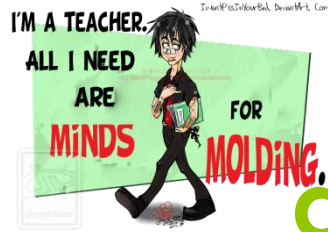
The Platinum-Blonde Man



Matilda plays another practical joke on her father with the aid of her mother's hair-dye.

1. Why did Matilda feel the need to retaliate this time?
 - a. Her father called her a liar and a cheat when she worked out difficult arithmetic in her head (faster than her brother – and father – could do on paper).
2. What does Matilda's mother say she will find out when she gets older?
 - a. That men aren't always quite as clever as they think they are/men aren't always right/women are more clever(or intelligent) than men (or than men think they are).
3. What does Roald Dahl mean by this comment?
 - a. That sometimes people think they know better, or what is best, but that they aren't always right.





Miss Honey and Miss Trunchbull

1. Find three adjectives (describing words) in the novel to describe Miss Honey and three to describe Miss Trunchbull, and write them down.
2. Find three similes (comparing two things using 'like' or 'as') in the novel that describe Miss Honey or Miss Trunchbull and write them down. Explain what the similes mean.
3. Draw a table (see below) to compare and contrast Miss Honey and Miss Trunchbull using the information from the chapters we have read so far.

Miss T and Miss H	Miss Honey	Miss Trunchbull
Teachers	Kind	Cruel





The Parents

Miss Honey has no luck when she tries convincing Miss Trunchbull of Matilda's exceptional abilities, so she tries to convince Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood instead. They react with the same disbelief and resistance as Miss Trunchbull.

- If you were a teacher, and had a student like Matilda, what would you do next?





Throwing the Hammer

1. What is the "Chokey"?

- a. '...a very tall but very narrow cupboard. The floor is only ten inches square...three of the walls are made of cement with bits of broken glass sticking out all over...The door's got thousands of sharp spikey nails sticking out of it.' (p. 104)

2. What does "throwing the hammer" mean? Why is Miss Trunchbull good at it?

- o It means swinging a 'ruddy great cannon-ball on the end of a long bit of wire' around and around until it's going really fast and then letting it go to see how far you can get it. (p. 110)
- o She used to throw for Britain in the Olympic Games so she'll throw anything (including children) to make sure her arm stays strong. (p. 110)

3. Why doesn't someone put a stop to Miss Trunchbull's discipline tactics?

- o Everyone (including parents) is scared of her because she treats them the same way she treats the students. (p. 116)

