

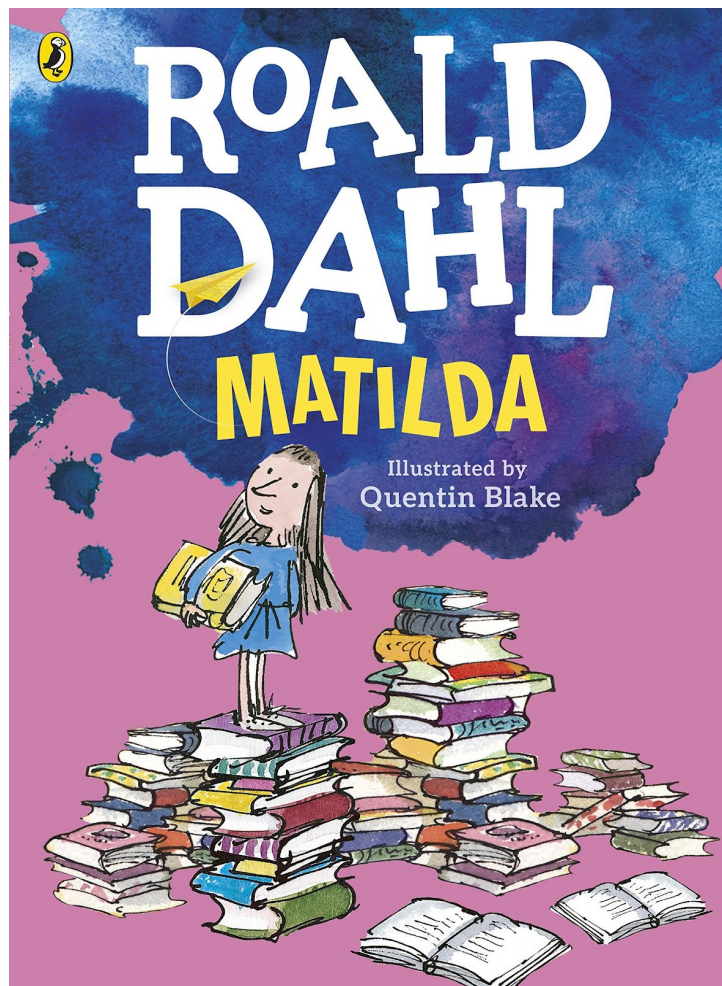
MATILDA, by Roald Dahl

Lesson 1

Before reading...

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?



Now read the blurb

- Were any of your predictions correct?
- What does it mean when something is infinite?
- Would you enjoy infinite lives?

1. The Reader Of Books

V:

- Why do you think Dahl uses the word blister to describe some children? What does he mean by this?
- Define adoration.
- How would a nimble mind work?
- Define hankering.

I:

- How can you tell the Wormwoods don't care for Matilda? Why won't Mr Wormwood buy Matilda a book?
- Why would Mrs Phelps have been taken aback by Matilda?
- Why does Mrs Phelps keep asking Matilda about pictures?
- Why does Matilda start going to the library less?

E:

- What is Dahl trying to say in the first three paragraphs?
- How does Dahl make it funny?

R:

- Who does Dahl say bears the most brunt of parental adoration?
- What are Matilda's parents called?
- Where did Matilda go for books?
- What book does Mrs Phelps give to Matilda?
- How does Matilda make hot chocolate?

S:

- Choose one word to describe Matilda and explain your choice.
- Do the same for Mrs Phelps.

2. Mr Wormwood, The Great Car Dealer

V:

- Define dishonest.
- Define 'resented'. What synonyms can you think of for this word?

I:

- How much money do you think the Wormwoods have? What makes you think this?
- How can you tell Mr Wormwood likes Mike more than Matilda?
- Why do red spots appear on Mr Wormwood's cheeks?

E:

- How does the author side you against Mr Wormwood?

R:

- What is Mr Wormwood's job?
- What does Mr Wormwood use sawdust for? Why won't Mr Wormwood let Matilda eat her dinner in the dining room?

S:

- Summarise the character of Mr Wormwood in one word and explain your choice of word.
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3. The Hat and the Superglue

V:

- Why do you think Matilda describes the garage as beastly?

I:

- Why did Matilda have to time put the glue on perfectly?
- Why do you think Mr Wormwood stayed very silent?

E:

- Do you feel sorry for Mr Wormwood in this chapter? Why?

R:

- Why did Matilda need to stand on her toes?
- Why did Mr Wormwood keep the hat on all day?
- What was the worst thing about a hat glued permanently to your head?

S:

- Summarise this chapter in one word.

4. The Ghost

V:

- Define 'comparative calm'.
- Define 'chastened'.
- What does subtle mean?

I:

- Why do you think Matilda continuing to read annoyed Mr Wormwood?
- Why doesn't Matilda cry or sulk?
- Why does Matilda hide Chopper up the chimney?
- Why does Harry's face turn grey?

E:

- How did you feel when Mr Wormwood tore up the book?

R:

- How could the family tell Mr Wormwood was in a bad mood?
- What is Matilda reading?
- What does Mr Wormwood do to the book?

S:

- Summarise Matilda's plan in one word.

5. Arithmetic

V:

- What does it mean if you put up with something?
- Define 'obliged'.
- What does it mean if your clothes are loud?
- What is profit?

I:

- Why do you think Matilda's parents would settle down after a prank?
- Why does Matilda's dad assume she's cheating?

E:

- What does this chapter tell you about Matilda?

R:

- How old is Matilda now?
- Why does Mr Wormwood get Mike to do maths?
- How old is Mike?

S:

- Summarise Harry's reaction in one word.

6. The Platinum-Blond Man

V:

- What is foulness?
- Define 'smothered'.

I:

- Why did Matilda leave some of her father's tonic in the bottle?
- Why didn't Matilda look at Harry?
- Why is Mrs Wormwood screaming at Harry?

E:

- How does the author build tension at the start of this chapter?

R:

- Why did Mrs Wormwood freshen her hair dye?
- How did Matilda get her dad to dye his hair?
- How did Mrs Wormwood react?
- What does Matilda suggest happened? Why do you think she does this?

S:

- Summarise this chapter in one word and explain your choice.

7. Miss Honey

V:

- Define formidable.
- Define tangible.
- Define quivery and explain why Miss Honey felt this way.
- What does 'reluctantly' mean?

I:

- Why do you think Matilda was put in the bottom class?
- Why do you think Miss Honey starts to polish her spectacles?
- Why does Miss Honey lie to Lavender?
- Do you think Miss Honey is a good teacher?

E:

- Do you think Matilda was at a disadvantage to start school late?
- How does the author juxtapose Miss Honey and Miss Trunchbull?

R:

- Why did Matilda start school late?
- How old was she when she started?
- What was the name of the school?
- How does Matilda first impress Miss Honey?

S:

- Sum up Miss Honey in one word.

8. The Trunchbull

V:

- What is an interval?
- Define resolutely.

I:

- Why was it strange that Miss Trunchbull got her job? Why is Miss Trunchbull pleased with Mr Wormwood? Is she right to be?
- What does Miss Trunchbull think Miss Honey is trying to do with Matilda?

R:

- What had Miss Trunchbull been told about Matilda?

S:

- Summarise Miss Honey's thoughts at the end of this chapter in one word.
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9. The Parents

V:

- What does it mean if someone is stuck up?
- Define 'presumed'.

I:

- Do you think it's a good idea for Miss Honey to go and see the Wormwoods? Why?
- What does Mr Wormwood assume Miss Honey is there for and why?
- How does Miss Honey shock Mr Wormwood?

E:

- Explain How do you think Miss Honey felt during this chapter? Why?
- Do you agree with Miss Wormwood's views on what women should do? Why?

R:

- What does Miss Honey get for Matilda?
- What time does Miss Honey decide to call on the Wormwoods and why?
- Why isn't Mrs Wormwood paying much attention?

S:

- Summarise this chapter in one word.

10. Throwing The Hammer

V:

- What is throwing the hammer?
- Define regale.
- What does it mean if something is commonplace?
- Define enthralled.

I:

- True or false: Matilda is humble? How can you tell all the children on the yard were fearful of the Trunchbull?
- Why don't parents complain about the Trunchbull?

E:

- Do you think Miss Trunchbull should be a headteacher? Why?

R:

- Why was it easy for Matilda to make friends?
- Who is Matilda's best friend?
- What is the chokey?
- Who told on Hortensia?
- Which hairstyle can Miss Trunchbull not stand?

S:

- Sum up Miss Trunchbull in one word and explain your choice.

Homework

Imagine you are **Miss Honey**. Write a diary entry from the day she **first met Matilda**.

OR

Summarise the first half of the book in 4 sentences.