

MATILDA, by Roald Dahl

Lesson 2

Bruce Bogtrotter and the Cake

V:

- What is a riding crop?
- Define 'exceedingly wary'. Why was Bruce acting this way?
- Define 'gingerly'.

I:

- What does Matilda think is the Trunchbull's secret to getting away with her nastiness?
- Why do you think Bruce initially didn't want to taste the cake?
- How does the mood of the audience change?

E:

- Why do you think Dahl chose the name Bruce Bogtrotter?
- Do you think this was a good punishment? Why?
- How did you feel when Bruce finished the cake?

R:

- How old is Bruce?
- Why is Trunchbull furious with Bruce?
- How big was the cake?
- How does Miss Trunchbull punish Bruce when he finishes the cake?

S:

- Summarise this chapter in one word.

Lavender

V:

- Why are the faces 'eager'?
- What is a custom?
- What does it mean to mull something over?

I:

- Why do you think Lavender volunteers to be on water duty?
- And what was the actual reason?
- Why doesn't Lavender tell anyone about the newt?

E:

- Do you like Lavender? Why?

R:

- When will Miss Trunchbull be teaching the class?
- What does Miss Honey think they will be tested on?
- What does Lavender catch from her pond?

S:

- Summarise the character of Lavender in one word and explain your choice.

The Weekly Test

V:

- What does the word 'barked' tell you?
- Define nauseating.
- What does 'dripping in sarcasm' mean?
- What is foolish abandon?
- What does Miss Trunchbull mean when she describes Miss Honey as wet?

I:

- Why do you think Miss Honey checked the water?
- Why do you think Miss Trunchbull wouldn't want Nigel's father to be her doctor?
- True or false: Miss Trunchbull respects Miss Honey?
- Describe Miss Trunchbull's teaching method.

E:

- Do you think Miss Trunchbull sounds like a good teacher? Why?

R:

- What does Miss Trunchbull say she'll have to do a lot to the children?
- Who didn't wash their hands?
- How does Miss Trunchbull punish Nigel?
- What word did Nigel say everyone could spell?
- What does Miss Trunchbull do when Nigel doesn't know the answer?
- What book does Matilda profess to reading to Miss Trunchbull? How has Miss Trunchbull's opinion of Mr Wormwood changed and why?

S:

- Summarise Miss Trunchbull's teaching style in one word.

The First Miracle

V:

- What is 'the bane of someone's life'? What does that mean?

I:

- Why did Miss Trunchbull yell and leap?
- Why does Lavender tell Miss Trunchbull that she bets it bites?
- Why do you think Miss Trunchbull blames Matilda?
- How do you think Matilda made the glass tip?
- Why does Miss Trunchbull storm out?

E:

- In this chapter Matilda screams at Miss Trunchbull. Is this out of character? What makes you say this?

R:

- What is Miss Trunchbull's idea of a perfect school?
- Who does Miss Trunchbull blame?
- What does Matilda do to the glass?

S:

- Summarise the events of this chapter in one word.

The Second Miracle

V:

- Define astounding.
- Define exalted.
- What does it mean if you will something to happen?

I:

- Why did Matilda stay at her desk?
- Why do you think Miss Honey doesn't initially believe Matilda?
- What does Matilda mean when she says she was flying past the stars on silver wings?

E:

- Would you believe Matilda? Why?

R:

- Why does Matilda think she might get expelled?
- How did Miss Honey react when the glass tipped?

S:

- Summarise the events of this chapter in one word.

Miss Honey's Cottage

V:

- What does it mean to become animated?
- Define divine.
- Define phenomenon.
- What does 'profoundly moved' mean?

I:

- Why does Miss Honey want Matilda to be careful?
- What does Miss Honey think might be the cause of Matilda's powers?
- How can you tell Miss Honey doesn't have much money?

E:

- How does this chapter make you feel about Miss Honey? Why?

R:

- What did Matilda and Miss Honey pass?
- Which season is it?
- Where does Miss Honey live?
- What do Matilda and Miss Honey eat?

S:

- Summarise this chapter in one word.

Miss Honey's Story

V:

- What is an exception?
- Define 'dominated'.

I:

- Why did the atmosphere in the room change?
- How did Matilda think Miss Honey was thinking?
- Why do Miss Honey's hands tremble?
- Why do you think Miss Honey didn't cry in front of her aunt?

E:

- How does this chapter make you feel about Miss Honey?
- How did you feel when you found out Miss Trunchbull is Miss Honey's aunt?

R:

- Why does Miss Honey believe Matilda is not like a normal child?
- How old is Miss Honey?
- How did Miss Honey get her house?

S:

- Summarise your feelings at the end of this chapter in one word.

The Names

V:

- Define cautious.

I:

- Why do you think Miss Honey only wanted to do cautious experiments?
- Do you think Matilda really did love the tea?

E:

- What is the effect of this short chapter?

R:

- What did Miss Trunchbull do if she thought Miss Honey hadn't washed properly?

S:

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

V:

- Define essential.
- What does vital mean?
- Find a phrase that shows that Matilda had to put in a vast amount of work to lift the cigar.

I:

- Would Matilda have been shocked the house was empty? Why?
- Why do you think Matilda was exhausted?

E:

- How does Dahl use italics in this chapter?

R:

- What did Matilda practise on?

S:

- Sum up Matilda's efforts in one word.

The Third Miracle

V:

- What is a 'smart-aleck'?
- Define impertinent.
- Define stagnant.
- Define prostrate.

I:

- Why does Miss Honey warn all the children to be on their best behaviour?
- Do you think it was fair that Miss Trunchbull asked for the threes to be recited backwards?
- What happens to Miss Trunchbull?

E:

- What do you think Matilda wrote? Why?

R:

- Why was it relevant that it was Thursday?
- What happened to Eric's ears?
- Why does Nigel jump up and start shouting?
- What does Nigel do with the jug of water?

S:

- Summarise the events of this chapter in one word.

A New Home

V:

- What is a will and testament?
- What is climate?

I:

- Why do you think Miss Trunchbull disappeared?
- Why can't Matilda move things any more?
- Why doesn't Matilda want to go with the Wormwoods?

E:

- How did the last chapter make you feel?

R:

- How did Miss Honey get The Red House?
- Which class did Matilda move into?
- Where are the Wormwoods going?

S:

- Summarise the whole story in 5 words.

Homework

Write a story about another **magic trick** that Matilda does.

OR

Do you think this book is **entertaining**? **Explain** why.