



Matilda

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–3

- 1 Write the right names in the sentences.
 - a is a small, ratty-looking man.
 - b is a clever little girl.
 - c is an ordinary little boy.
 - d is a librarian.
- 2 Answer these questions.
 - a What can Matilda do at the age of one and a half?
.....
 - b What can Matilda do at the age of three?
.....
 - c What can Matilda do at the age of four?
.....
 - d Why does Mrs Phelps watch Matilda with surprise and excitement?
.....
 - e Why doesn't Mr Wormwood want Matilda to read books?
.....
- 3 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?
Do you think Mr Wormwood is a good father? Why or why not?
- 4 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?
Which do you prefer – watching TV or reading? Why do you feel this way?
- 5 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?
 - a Matilda's parents are busy doing things that aren't important.
 - b Matilda doesn't look at the pictures in the books.
 - c Matilda's father buys and sells cars.
 - d Matilda's father is an honest man.
 - e Matilda's father drives cars backwards for thousands of miles.
 - f Matilda wants to watch TV with her family.
 - g Matilda puts glue around the inside of her father's hat.
 - h Matilda cuts the hat off her father's head.
 - i Fred lives very close to Matilda.
 - j Matilda borrows a parrot from Fred.

- 6 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?
Do you think it is right for children to watch TV all the time? Why or why not?
- 7 Draw a picture to illustrate what happens in Chapter 3.

Chapters 4–6

- 8 Answer these questions.
 - a How old is Matilda when she goes to school for the first time?
 - b How many children does Crunchem Hall have?
 - c How many other children are in Matilda's group?
 - d How old is Miss Honey?
 - e What is fourteen multiplied by nineteen?
 - f How many children in the group can spell the word *cat*?
 - g How many miles are on the clock of Miss Trunchbull's car?
 - h How old is Hortensia?
 - i How many times was Hortensia in The Chokey in her first year?
 - j How old is Bruce Bogtrotter?
- 9 Match the questions with the answers.
 - a Why does Matilda start going to school later than other children? ...
 - b Why does Miss Honey try to stay calm when Matilda multiplies twelve sevens? ...
 - c Why does Miss Honey go to see Miss Trunchbull? ...
 - d Why does Miss Trunchbull like Mr Wormwood? ...
 - e Why does Miss Trunchbull think Matilda is a bad girl? ...
 - f Why does Miss Honey go to see Matilda's parents? ...
 - g Why doesn't Mr Wormwood want to see Miss Honey? ...
 - h Why does Miss Trunchbull put children in The Chokey? ...
 - i Why doesn't Miss Trunchbull like Amanda's hair? ...
 - j Why does Miss Trunchbull make Bruce Bogtrotter eat a cake? ...



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- k Why isn't Bruce Bogtrotter hurt when Miss Trunchbull hits him with a plate? ...
- l Why does Lavender put a newt in Miss Trunchbull's glass of water? ...
 - 1 Because she wants to be as brave as Matilda.
 - 2 Because she doesn't want to show that she is very surprised.
 - 3 Because she wants to make them understand that Matilda is very special.
 - 4 Because she thinks he ate her cake.
 - 5 Because she wants to punish them.
 - 6 Because she wants to tell her about Matilda.
 - 7 Because he is too full of cake.
 - 8 Because he is watching TV.
 - 9 Because her parents forgot to send her.
 - 10 Because she believes that he sold her a good car.
 - 11 Because it is very long.
 - 12 Because Mr Wormwood told her this.

10 Work in groups of three.

Role play the scene in which Miss Honey goes to see Mr and Mrs Wormwood and tries to make them understand that Matilda is very special.

11 Make lists.

Write down five things that good parents do and five things that bad parents do.

Chapters 7-9

12 Answer these questions.

- a What question does Miss Trunchbull ask Rupert?
.....
- b What word does Miss Trunchbull ask Eric to spell?
.....
- c What does Miss Trunchbull call Matilda's father?
.....
- d How old was Miss Honey when her father died?
.....
- e How much does Miss Honey pay to live in the little house?
.....
- f Who is Miss Honey's aunt?
.....

- g What does Matilda do with the piece of chalk?
.....
- h Why does Miss Trunchbull leave the village?
.....
- i What arrives at the office?
.....
- j What happens to Matilda at the end of the story?
.....

13 Work in groups of five.

Role play the scene in Chapter 7.

14 Write down how you feel when ...

- a Miss Trunchbull catches Wilfred's feet in her hands.
.....
- b the piece of chalk starts moving across the blackboard.
.....
- c Miss Trunchbull falls to the floor.
.....
- d Nigel pours water over Miss Trunchbull.
.....
- e Miss Honey gets her house back.
.....
- f Mr and Mrs Wormwood let Matilda live with Miss Honey.
.....

15 Work in pairs.

Look at the names *Wormwood*, *Trunchbull* and *Honey*. Look up *worm*, *bull* and *honey* in a dictionary. Why do you think Roald Dahl chose these names? Choose new names for these characters. When you have finished, compare your new names with those of your classmates.

After reading

- 16 Look up the word *impossible* in your dictionary. Lots of impossible things happen in *Matilda*. Write the things down. When you have finished, compare your list with those of your classmates.
- 17 What do Matilda and Miss Honey say to each other when they return to Miss Honey's house? Write the conversation.



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Chapters 1–3

1 Who are the people in *italics*?

- a 'We're too good to you already, my girl!'
- b 'Shall I find you a nice one with lots of pictures in it?'
- c 'You mean you've looked at the pictures.'
- d 'I get it from the wood shop.'
- e 'She was too angry.'
- f 'You'll pull the skin off my head!'
- g 'Don't *you* ever stop reading?'
- h 'My father gave it to *me*.'
- i '*He's* always saying that.'
- j 'I want to see if *you're* clever.'

2 Underline the right words.

- a Matilda is *older* / *younger* than Michael.
- b Matilda reads fourteen famous books in *six* / *sixteen* months.
- c Matilda's father sells *cars* / *houses*.
- d Mr Wormwood has a *thick* / *thin* moustache.
- e Matilda and her family always eat dinner in the *dining-room* / *living-room*.
- f Matilda asks her father if his *feet* / *head* got bigger.
- g Mr Wormwood's first name is *Harry* / *Michael*.
- h The parrot is always saying, 'Dead man's *dinner* / *supper*!'

Chapters 4–6

3 What are the things in *italics*?

- a Nigel spelled *it*.
- b 'Mrs Phelps at the library helps me to choose *them*.'
- c 'I was in *there* yesterday.'
- d '*It's* only got ten thousand miles on the clock.'
- e 'We don't keep *them* in the house.'
- f '*It's* a very tall, narrow cupboard in Trunchbull's room.'
- g 'M-my m-m-mummy likes *it* long.'
- h 'And this selfish little snake ate *it*!'
- i But Miss Trunchbull picked up the empty plate and crashed *it* down on his head.
- j 'She never gives a lesson without *one*.'

4 Write the right words in the sentences.

angry car dark eggs happen
orange school shaking

- a Most children begin when they are five years old.
- b Matilda has hair.
- c Miss Honey's voice is when she asks Matilda about the books she is reading.
- d Miss Trunchbull sounds like an dog.
- e Miss Trunchbull buys a from Matilda's father.
- f Someone puts bad under Miss Trunchbull's desk.
- g Lavender thinks that bad people need to have something bad to them.
- h Newts have stomachs.

Chapters 7–9

5 What happens first? What happens next? Write the numbers, 1–5.

- a Matilda moves the piece of chalk across the blackboard.
- b Mr and Mrs Wormwood drive away.
- c Miss Trunchbull leaves the school.
- d Matilda pushes the glass over with her eyes.
- e Matilda asks her parents if she can live with Miss Honey.

6 Finish these sentences.

- a says, 'What are two sevens?'
- b says, 'I didn't do it!'
- c says, 'I want to talk to you.'
- d says, 'It can't be Magnus!'
- e says, 'We're leaving.'



Matilda

Book key

- 1 a gearbox b parrot c ghost d multiply
e newt f sawdust g chalk, blackboard
h will i drill
- 2 a Matilda b Miss Honey c Norway
d children and adults
- 3 Open answers
- 4 a ✗ – they aren't interested in Matilda and they leave her alone in the house.
b ✓
c ✗ – there aren't any.
d ✗ – Mrs Phelps is surprised to see Matilda.
e ✓
f ✓
- 5 Possible answers:
Mr Wormwood is wearing a jacket, a yellow shirt and a red tie. Mrs Wormwood is wearing a short pink skirt, high pink shoes and a pink top. Michael is wearing short trousers and a big T-shirt. He has a cap and black shoes. Matilda is wearing short jeans, a blue top and blue shoes.
- 6 a Mr and Mrs Wormwood b Michael
c Matilda d Mrs Phelps, the librarian
e Charles Dickens
- 7 Open answers
- 8 b, c, d and f are right
- 9 Sample answers:
a She says his business isn't honest.
b He says she can't read her book at supper time.
- 10–11 Open answers
- 12 a ✗ b ✗ c ✓ d ✓ e ✗ f ✓ g ✗
- 13 Sample answer:
The ghost, because her family was nice to her for about a week.
- 14 Open answers
- 15 a Mrs Wormwood b Miss Honey c Matilda
d Nigel e Matilda f Mr Wormwood
g Miss Honey h the other teachers
i Mrs Wormwood j Mr or Mrs Wormwood
- 16 a Miss Honey – calm, kind, never shouts
Miss Trunchbull – frightening, strong, rude, angry, dangerous, always right
b Open answers
- 17 Open answers
- 18 a six b hair c steals d sick e piece f plan
g newt h brings i water

- 19 a You mustn't have long hair.
b You mustn't eat her chocolate cake.
c You mustn't speak until she speaks to you.
d You must stand up when you answer her questions.
e You must put a glass of water on her table.
- 20 Open answers
- 21 a toes > hair b nose > ears c nice man > robber
d laughs > screams e Lavender > Matilda
f hands > eyes g desk > glass
- 22 a Rupert b Rupert c Eric d Eric
e Mr Wormwood f Matilda g Matilda
- 23 Open answers
- 24 a, b, d, g and i are true (e may also be true).
- 25–26 Open answers
- 27 a blackboard b drops / on c Agatha
d cold water e old house f can't
g running away to h happy
- 28–38 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1–4 Open answers
- 5 Possible answer:
No, I wouldn't like to have the Wormwoods for parents because they aren't nice, and because they aren't interested in their children.
- 6–13 Open answers
- 14 Possible answer:
The best teacher in the world is friendly, clever and interested in students. He or she always tries to help students.
- 15–19 Open answers
- 20 Possible answer:
Matilda – clever
Mr Wormwood – dishonest
Mrs Wormwood – nasty
Mrs Phelps – sensible
Miss Honey – nice
Miss Trunchbull – evil

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a Mr Wormwood b Matilda c Michael
d Mrs Phelps
- 2 a At the age of one and a half, she can speak perfectly and knows as many words as most grown-up people.
b At the age of three, she can read newspapers.
c At the age of four, she can read fast and well.



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d Because during the next six months, Matilda reads fourteen 'famous books' by different writers.

e Because he wants her to watch TV instead.

3-4 Open answers

5 **a** ✓ **b** ✗ **c** ✓ **d** ✗ **e** ✗ **f** ✗ **g** ✓
h ✗ **i** ✓ **j** ✓

6-7 Open answers

8 **a** Five and a half. **b** Two hundred and fifty.

c Eighteen. **d** About twenty-three.

e Two hundred and sixty-six. **f** Three.

g Ten thousand. **h** Ten. **i** Six. **j** Eleven.

9 **a** 9 **b** 2 **c** 6 **d** 10 **e** 12 **f** 3 **g** 8 **h** 5

i 11 **j** 4 **k** 7 **l** 1

10-11 Open answers

12 **a** 'What are two sevens?'

b *What.*

c A robber.

d Five.

e Ten pence a week.

f Miss Trunchbull.

g She uses it to write words on the blackboard.

h Because she is very frightened.

i Miss Honey's father's will.

j She stays in England and lives with Miss Honey.

13 Open answers

14 Possible answers:

a frightened **b** amazed **c** excited **d** amused

e relieved **f** happy

15-17 Open answers

Progress test key

1 **a** Mr and Mrs Wormwood / Matilda's parents

b Mrs Phelps

c Matilda

d Mr Wormwood / Matilda's father

e Matilda

f Mrs Wormwood / Matilda's mother

g Matilda

h Fred

i Fred's parrot

j Michael / Matilda's brother

2 **a** younger **b** six **c** cars **d** thin **e** living-room

f head **g** Harry **h** dinner

3 **a** the word *cat*

b books

c Wormwood Cars / Mr Wormwood's business

d Miss Trunchbull's new car / the car

e books

f The Chokey

g Amanda's hair

h Miss Trunchbull's cake

i the empty plate

j a large glass of water

4 **a** school **b** dark **c** shaking **d** angry **e** car

f eggs **g** happen **h** orange

5 **a** 2 **b** 5 **c** 3 **d** 1 **e** 4

6 **a** Miss Trunchbull **b** Matilda

c Miss Honey **d** Miss Trunchbull

e Mr Wormwood / Matilda's father