



June 2026

Dear Incoming 5th Graders,

Over the summer you will be required to read Matilda, by Roald Dahl, and complete the novel study packet. You may spread your reading out any way you'd like (20 minutes a day, an hour a day, etc.), but you should be reading every day.

There is a response question for most chapters in the novel study packet. It would be wise to complete that response after you finish reading that chapter. **Responses must be written in complete sentences, including proper capitalization and punctuation.**

Your completed packet will be collected for a grade on the first day of school. We will begin our school year with some final Matilda activities and then continue our Roald Dahl author study with The Witches and Boy.

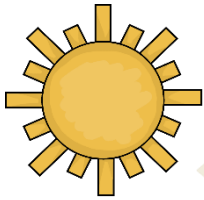
Happy Reading!

Mrs. Griffin

My Novel Study of

Matilda

BY Roald Dahl



Name: _____

The Reader of Books

Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood view their daughter Matilda as nothing more than a scab. How does Matilda show she is brilliant at a young age?

One and a Half: _____

Three: _____

Four: _____

Why does Matilda's father get upset when she asks him to buy her a book?

Explain how Matilda spends her day while her mother is playing Bingo and her father is at work.



If given a choice, would you prefer to watch television or read a book? Explain your answer.

Mr. Wormwood, the Great Car Dealer

Explain how sawdust is one of the great secrets to Mr. Wormwood's success as a car dealer.

Mr. Wormwood stated that no one ever got rich from being honest. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Are the characters in this novel realistic? Why or why not?

Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood speak cruelly to Matilda. Predict how she will get them back for acting beastly to her.



The Hat and the SUPERglue

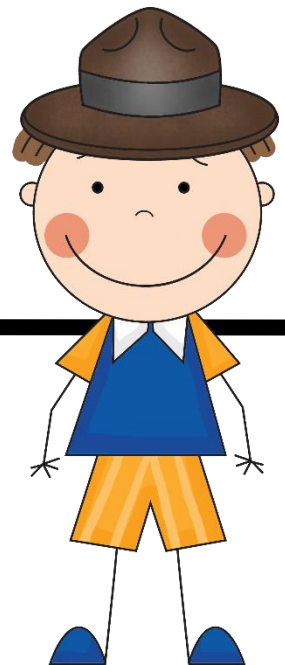


Describe the prank
Matilda plays on her
father.

How does Mr.
Wormwood remove the
hat from his head?

What emotions did you
feel while you read
chapter three? Give
details from your
reading that made you
feel that way.

Infer what Matilda
means when she thinks
it too much to hope
that the prank had
taught her father a
permanent lesson.



The Ghost

Name the event that caused Matilda to play another prank on her father.

List the four items the family brought with them while looking for the burglars.

What does the parrot say that makes Mrs. Wormwood believe a ghost is in their house?

Why do you think the author wrote this novel?





Arithmetic



Does the title of the novel fit the story? Why or why not?

Matilda shows her father that she is very clever by computing all of the sums in her head.
Why does this make her father angry?

The narrator says that Matilda has a special power over her family. What is it and why is this gift important?

Draw an interpretation of what you just read. Show your thoughts through symbols, pictures, or a graphic organizer.

The Platinum-Blond Man

Write a summary of what you just read.

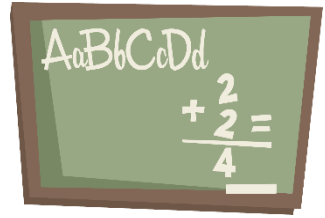
Explain why does Matilda decided to retaliate against her father by dying his hair.

Describe the similarities and differences between the main character and you.



After reading, I wonder...

Miss Honey



How old is Matilda on her first day of school? Why does she start school at this age?

Analyze Miss Honey's motives for asking Matilda so many questions.

How does Matilda feel about Miss Honey? How do you know?

Compare and contrast Miss Honey and Miss Trunchbull.

True or False

Miss Trunchbull, the Headmistress, was a gigantic holy terror, a fierce tyrannical monster who frightens the life out of pupils and teachers alike.

Why does Miss Trunchbull accuse Matilda of putting the stink bomb under her desk? Explain why she has a bad impression of Matilda.



How does Miss Trunchbull respond when Miss Honey asks for Matilda to be placed in a classroom with eleven year olds?

Give me a physical description of Miss Trunchbull. Make sure to discuss her body type and clothes.

The Trunchbull

THE PARENTS



How does Miss Honey make special accommodations for Matilda in the classroom? Would you like to have Miss Honey as your teacher?

Why does Mr. Wormwood tell Miss Honey that her visit is most inconvenient?

Pick out a phrase from what you are reading that made you think. Interpret what the author meant.



Throwing the Hammer



Which characters would you interpret to be "good?" Which would you interpret to be "bad?" What has the author written that leads you to these interpretations?

Define what makes an interesting story.

True or False

Matilda is able to make friends easily with other children.

Fact or Opinion

Lavender was exceptionally small for her age, a skinny little nymph with deep brown eyes.

What is The Chokey?

Bruce Bogtrotter and the Cake



Describe the setting's time and place.

Define the most important event from chapter ten. Give at least two reasons why you think it is significant.

Important Event:

Reason One:

Reason Two:

What does Matilda mean when she says "Never do anything by halves if you want to get away with it. Be outrageous. Go the whole hog."

Lavender

How have your feelings changed as you have been reading?

Is what you are reading believable? Why or why not?

List five words of warning Miss Honey gives to her students about The Headmistress.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Predict what will happen when Miss Trunchbull discovers a newt in her water jug.

Discuss why Lavender admires Hortensia and Matilda.





The Weekly Test



How does Miss Honey teach her students how to spell the word difficulty? Do you think this is an effective way to learn?

What type of reaction would you have if Miss Trunchbull entered your classroom? Explain your answer.

What has been the most interesting part of the novel?

Explain how Eric Ink is punished for asking Miss Trunchbull if she started out as a baby.

The First Miracle

Who does Miss Trunchbull blame for putting the newt in her water-jug? Why does she accuse this person?

Why do you think Roald Dahl chose the title "The First Miracle" for this chapter?

Discuss the peculiar sensation Matilda feels while Miss Trunchbull is yelling at her? How does she use this extraordinary power?



Chapter Fourteen



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The Second Miracle

After the children go outside for recess, Matilda stays inside to tell Miss Honey that she made the glass of water spill. Does Miss Honey initially believe Matilda? How does Matilda prove her story to Miss Honey?

Explain how Matilda looks while performing the second miracle.

Would you recommend this book to friends?
Why or why not?

Compared to other books you have read, do you think the novel Matilda is filled with too much violence?



Miss Honey's Cottage



Discuss your favorite scene from chapter sixteen.
Explain why you like it and include an illustration.



A large rectangular area defined by a dotted line, intended for a student to draw an illustration related to their discussion.

Miss Honey's Story

How does Miss Honey feel when Matilda asks her if she is dreadfully poor? How do you know?

List at least three problems Miss Honey has faced in her life. Which was the most life changing?

Why is it important for Miss Honey to find her father's will?

What was going through your mind as you read?



The Names

Matilda asks Miss Honey to reveal more information about her family. Predict how Matilda will use this knowledge to help her teacher.

What have you learned about life from what you are reading?

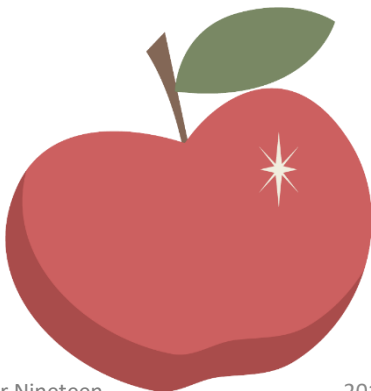
Tell me about the main character. What kind of a person is she?

The Practice

Tell me in your own words how Matilda practices her new power. What do you think she hopes to accomplish?

Describe the mood of what you are reading.

Differentiate between Miss Honey and your favorite teacher.



The Third Miracle

Describe the third miracle. How does Matilda frighten Miss Trunchbull into fainting?

Think back to all of the different pranks played in the book. Which is your favorite? Why?

Evaluate the quality of writing. Do you think Roald Dahl is a great writer?

How do you think the story will end?



A New Home

Do you think the conclusion of the book is a happy ending?
Why or why not?

List five major events in order from which happened
first to last in the novel.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____
