

Matilda

Drama Activities
Chapters 1 and 2

Persuasive Props

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting little blister... they think that he or she is wonderful.'

Choose a prop from a selection provided by your teacher (umbrella, duster, book, keys, saucepan, or any other household objects) and use your prop to exaggerate your emotions while you perform the following:

A speech defending your awful child!
Imagine you are the parent of a 'disgusting little blister' and try to persuade the audience that they are wonderful!



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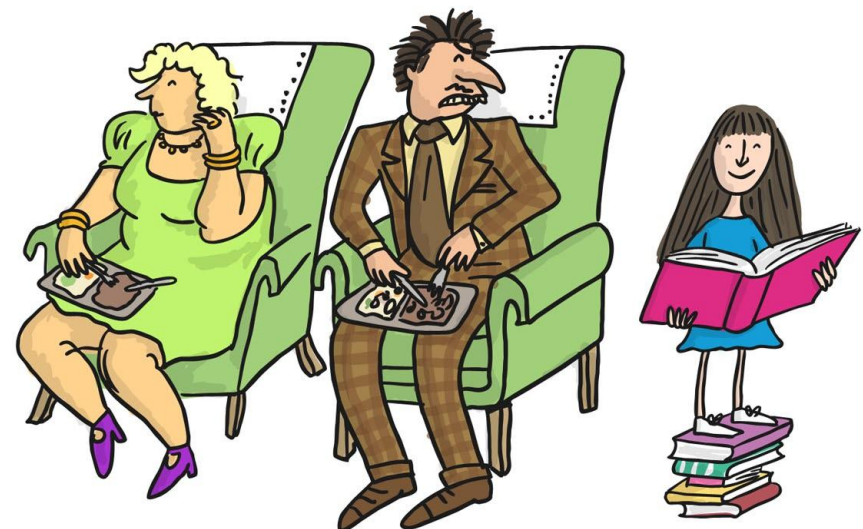
Thought Tracking

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'A book?' he said, 'What d'you want a flaming book for? What's wrong with the telly, for heaven's sake?'

Matilda has a mind that is nimble and quick, and she has a great appetite for books. She turns to her parents, in hope they will support her, only to be met with anger and ridicule.

Imagine you are Matilda and mime writing a diary entry about what is happening and how you feel about it.



Matilda

Drama Activities
Chapters 5 and 6

Freeze Frame

L.O: to explore the story through role play.

“Four thousand three hundred and three pounds fifty,” Matilda said. There was another silence. The father’s face was beginning to go dark red.” (Ch.5)

Mr Wormwood has very low expectations of his brilliant daughter. Therefore he is astounded when she is able to work out complicated figures in her head. Matilda’s brother Michael is confused by the numbers, and Matilda herself is quite confident in her answer.

In groups of 3, create a ‘still’ scene or ‘photograph’ showing this moment.



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Drama Activities
Chapters 5 and 6

Group Drama

L.O: to explore the story through role play.

‘There was no doubt in Matilda’s mind that this latest display of foulness by her father deserved severe punishment...’ (Ch.6)

In groups of 4-6 create a dramatic scene showing Matilda punishing her father (or mother) using a genius idea of YOUR invention.

Try to make punishment fit the crime- and make sure your plan is clever enough to work!



Matilda

Drama Activities
Chapters 8 and 9

Paired Improvisation

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'Normally Miss Honey was terrified of the Headmistress and kept well away from her, but at this moment she felt ready to take on anyone.' (Ch.8)

In pairs, take on the roles of Miss Honey and Miss Trunchbull. Take a moment to think about their behaviour and 'get into character'.

In role, have a conversation about Matilda. Miss Honey should try to persuade Miss Trunchbull that Matilda is an extraordinary little girl.

After 5 minutes, swap roles.



Matilda

Drama Activities
Chapters 8 and 9

A Meeting

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'I am Matilda's teacher at school and it is important I have a word with you and your wife.' (Ch.9)

What can be done about Matilda?

Working in small groups or as a whole class, appoint a leader to call a meeting of Matilda's parents and Miss Honey.

Try to work together and come up with a plan that suits everybody - if that's possible! You will need excellent powers of persuasion!

Show your ideas on the worksheet.



Matilda

Drama Activities
Chapters 13 and 14

Role on the Wall

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'The Trunchbull's whole body and face seemed to swell up as though she were being inflated by a bicycle pump.' (Ch.13)

The book is full of gloriously revolting and terrifying descriptions of Miss Trunchbull. Use your knowledge of the story so far to create a 'Role on the Wall' poster.

Write physical characteristics around the outside.

Write ideas about thoughts/feelings on the inside.



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Drama Activities
Chapters 13 and 14

Forum Theatre

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'A sense of power was brewing in those eyes of hers, a feeling of great strength was settling deep inside her eyes.' (Ch.14)

In groups, discuss how to best act out Chapter 14, as Matilda gradually discovers her magical powers. How can you use drama techniques to show your ideas?

Show your work to the class. The teacher will 'freeze' the action at certain points and ask the rest of the class to act as 'directors' and suggest improvements. Try to act on the ideas and help each other!



Matilda

Drama Activities Chapters 20 and 21

Hot Seating

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'She felt as though she had touched something that was not quite of this world, the highest point of the heavens, the farthest star.' (Ch.20)

Matilda has planned her revenge on Miss Trunchbull carefully and is delighted when her idea seems to work.

Think of a great open-ended question to ask Matilda at this point in the story.
(Your teacher or another child).

E.g How do you think of your ideas?



Matilda

Drama Activities Chapters 20 and 21

Flash Forward

L.O.: to explore the story through role play.

'Matilda leapt into Miss Honey's arms and hugged her, and Miss Honey hugged her back, and then the mother and father and brother were inside the car and the car was pulling away with tyres screaming.' (Ch.21)

At the end of the story, Matilda embarks on a new life with Miss Honey.

In groups, create a dramatic scene showing the possible consequences of the significant change. Think about what might happen next for Matilda, Miss Honey and the rest of the characters.

