

Penguin  Readers

MATILDA



Illustrated by Quentin Blake

ROALD DAHL

ROALD DAHL

Penguin  Readers

MATILDA

Illustrated by Quentin Blake

LEVEL

4

This book has been simplified for English Language Learners
by Rachel Bladon
Series Editor: Madeleine Burgess

CONTENTS

About Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake	4
About this story	4
Meet ...	5
Chapter 1 The reader of books	8
Chapter 2 Mr and Mrs Wormwood	14
Chapter 3 The hat and the glue	22
Chapter 4 The hair-dye	28
Chapter 5 Miss Honey	36
Chapter 6 The Trunchbull	41
Chapter 7 Bruce Bogtrotter	52
Chapter 8 The newt	57
Chapter 9 The glass	66
Chapter 10 Miss Honey's story	71
Chapter 11 The chalk	80
Chapter 12 A new home	88
Talk about ...	94
Project!	95

ABOUT ROALD DAHL AND QUENTIN BLAKE



Roald Dahl was a children's writer, and many of his stories are very famous across the world. Do you know any Roald Dahl books?



Quentin Blake drew pictures for Roald Dahl's stories. Do you like the pictures in this book? Which is your favourite picture?

About this story

This story is about a very clever girl called Matilda in her first weeks at school. But Matilda's school is not like other schools. The head teacher Miss Trunchbull shouts at the children and calls them horrible names. Everyone is frightened of her.

Before someone dies, they write a will. A will explains who you want to give your things to after you die. Wills are kept in safe places, like a lawyers' office. But in this story, an important will has disappeared.

MEET ...



Matilda



Mr and Mrs Wormwood



Miss Honey



Miss Trunchbull



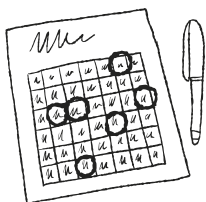
Lavender



Bruce Bogtrotter

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

NEW WORDS



bingo (n.)

a game with numbers, which
lots of people play together



sawdust (n.)

something that is made
when you cut wood



a garage (n.)

a shop where you
can buy a car



oil (n.)

something that you put in a car,
and you can put different oil on
your skin or hair



a brain (n.)

You think with your *brain*.

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What will happen in the story?
Answer the questions.

- 1** Look at the picture on page 11.
Where is Matilda? Who is she speaking to?
- 2** Look at the picture on page 15.
What is Mrs Wormwood doing?
- 3** Look at the picture on page 16.
Is Mr Wormwood a nice man?

Now let's read Chapter 1 and Chapter 2!

CHAPTER 1

The reader of books

Parents are strange people. They can have the most horrible child in the world, and still think that their child is wonderful. But sometimes, you meet a parent who is just not interested in their child. And that, of course, is much, much worse.

Mr and Mrs Wormwood were parents like these. They had a son called Michael and a daughter called Matilda, and Mr and Mrs Wormwood did not like Matilda. They thought that she was a boring problem, and they were waiting for her to get older and leave home. Mr and Mrs Wormwood wanted Matilda to disappear into another village or even into another country.

It is always bad when a parent does not like their child, but with Matilda, it was much worse because Matilda was special. She was intelligent and thoughtful, and she could learn anything very quickly. But because Mr and Mrs Wormwood were so stupid, and thought only about their own boring little lives, they did not see this.



Matilda's brother Michael was a very normal child, but Matilda was not. Before she was one and a half, Matilda could speak like an adult. Then she started finding newspapers and letters and things around the house, and teaching herself to read. When she was four years old, she could read fast and well, and was becoming interested in books.

There was only one book in the Wormwood house, and it was a book called *Easy Cooking*. Matilda read *Easy Cooking* from beginning to end, again and again, until she knew every word. Then she decided that she wanted something more interesting.

"Daddy," she said one day. "Please can you buy me a book?"

"Why do you want a stupid book?"

"I want to read it, Daddy."

"We've got a TV, my girl! A beautiful big new TV! And now you're asking for a book! You can't have everything!"

Nearly every afternoon during the week, Matilda's parents left her alone in the house. Her brother, who was nine, went to school. Her father went to work, and her mother went to play **bingo** in a town 8 miles away. Mrs Wormwood loved bingo and played it every afternoon.

One afternoon, Matilda decided to walk to the village library. When she arrived, she introduced herself to the woman who worked there, Mrs Phelps.

"May I sit here for a while and read a book, please?" Matilda asked, nicely.

Mrs Phelps was very surprised to see a small girl in the library without an adult, but she just said, "Of course! You are very welcome!"

"Where are the children's books, please?" asked Matilda.

"They're on that side of the library," said Mrs Phelps, pointing to them. "Shall I help you to find a book with lots of nice pictures in it?"

"No, thank you," said Matilda. "I can find some books myself."

After that, every afternoon while her mother was at bingo, Matilda went to the library. She sat there for two wonderful hours in a chair in the corner, reading book after book. Mrs Phelps often watched her. She was very interested in this little girl who loved books so much.



One day, after a few weeks, Mrs Phelps noticed that Matilda was walking around the library looking for a new book. "Can I help you, Matilda?" she asked.

"I don't know what to read next," said Matilda. "I've finished all the children's books."

"Do you mean that you've looked at all the pictures?" said Mrs Phelps.



"Yes, but I've read the books, too. Some of them were not very good, but others were lovely. I liked *The Secret Garden* best. I loved it when Mary found the garden behind the big wall."

Mrs Phelps looked at Matilda. "How old are you, Matilda?" she asked.

"Four years and three months," said Matilda.

Mrs Phelps was very surprised, but she did not show that to Matilda. "What book would you like to read next?" she asked.

"I would like a good one that adults read," said Matilda. "I'd like to read a famous one."

Mrs Phelps thought carefully. *How do you choose a famous adult book for a four-year-old girl?* she asked herself. She walked slowly around the library, and then chose a big book and gave it to Matilda.

"Try this," she said. "It's very famous and very good. If it's too long, I'll find you something different."

"*Great Expectations*," Matilda read, "by Charles Dickens. Thank you, Mrs Phelps. I'd like to read it very much."

For the next few afternoons, Matilda sat in the library and read *Great Expectations* from beginning to end. She stayed in her chair, and only moved when she needed to turn a page. Mrs Phelps could not stop watching her. It was so strange to see this little person enjoying a great

big book by Charles Dickens.

Mrs Phelps always felt sad when she had to cross the room and say, "It's ten to five, Matilda. The library is going to close soon."

"I loved *Great Expectations*," Matilda said at the end of the week. "Has Mr Dickens written any other books?"

"Yes, he's written many," said Mrs Phelps. "Shall I choose you another?"

Over the next six months, Matilda read book after book. Mrs Phelps helped her to borrow books, and Matilda began taking them home and reading them in her bedroom. Often she made herself some hot chocolate because it was so lovely to read her book with a nice drink in the empty house. She learnt about new places and discovered exciting people. It was like travelling around the world from her little room in an English village.



Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Find the words.

~~brain~~

sawdust

bingo

garage

oil

b	g	r	c	l	g	m	c	p	y
a	p	e	s	b	z	x	j	a	s
s	b	r	a	i	n	y	o	w	x
h	o	k	w	n	x	z	c	m	h
d	j	e	d	g	t	e	b	a	h
s	h	o	u	o	g	g	b	h	x
b	e	u	s	s	u	d	a	i	o
v	z	h	t	g	u	j	c	a	i
i	e	i	g	a	r	a	g	e	l
g	u	h	y	t	f	j	z	l	w

Complete the information.

Name: Matilda Wormwood

Likes: _____

Does not like: _____



Names: Mr and Mrs Wormwood

Like: _____

Do not like: _____

