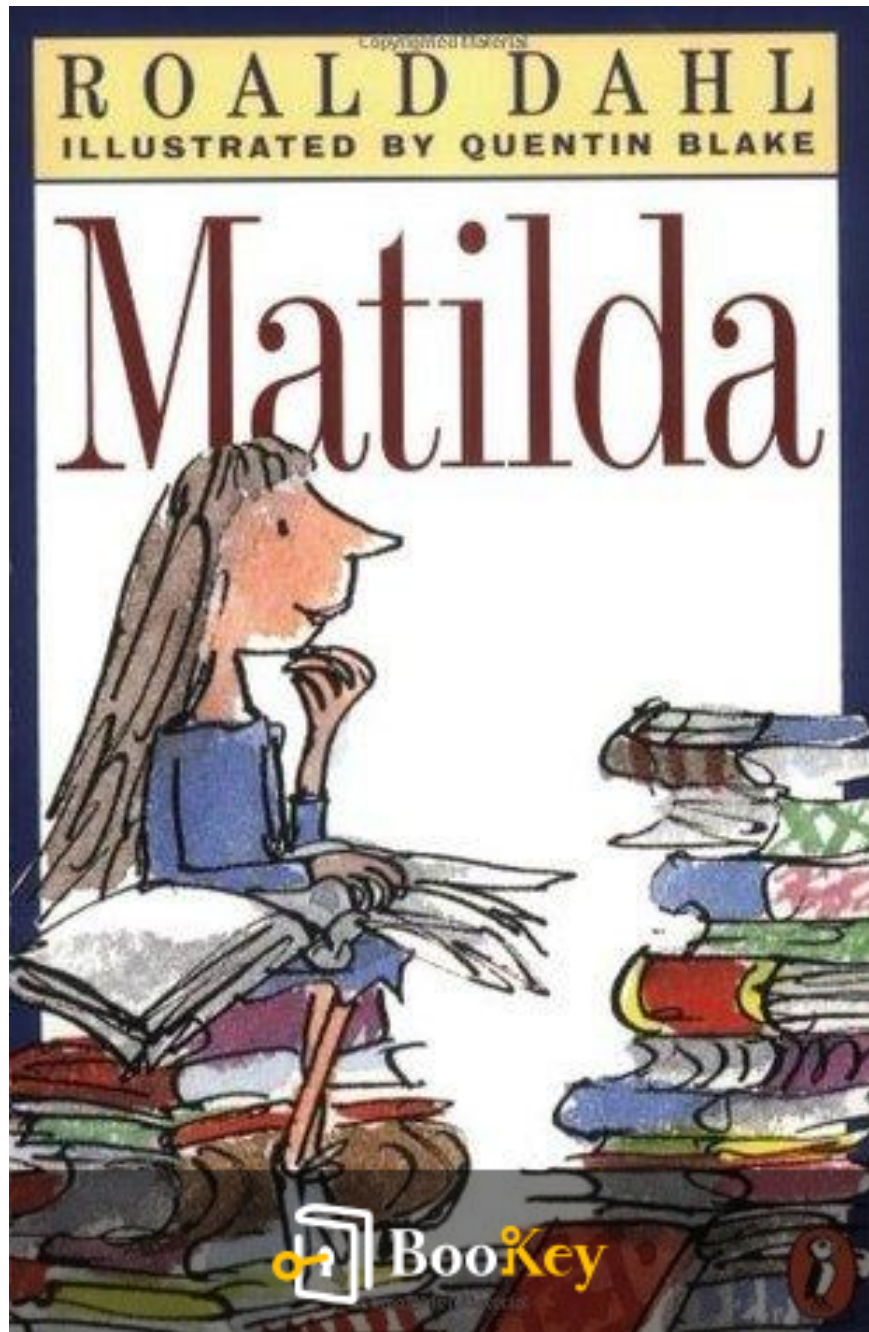


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Roald Dahl



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Matilda Summary

"A Tale of Genius, Mischief, and Resilience."

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About the book

In the whimsical and enchanting world of Roald Dahl's classic, "Matilda," meet a young girl whose brilliance and imagination shine brighter than the most radiant star in the night sky. Behind her angelic demeanor lies an extraordinary mind defying the circumstances she was born into. The tale chronicles the adventures of Matilda Wormwood, a girl blessed with an intellect that astounds yet is trapped in a drab life with parents who scarcely appreciate her genius. As Matilda takes the reader on a journey through her colorful escapades, encountering friends who nurture her talents and foes as wicked as they come, she unleashes her innate powers in delightful and unexpected ways. With empathy and a tenacious spirit, Matilda proves that courage and cleverness can conquer even the most tyrannical obstacles. It's a mesmerizing story of empowerment, wit, and wonder where the impossible becomes possible, inviting readers to embrace their own inner magic.

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About the author

Roald Dahl, an iconic figure in children's literature, was born on September 13, 1916, in Llandaff, Wales, to Norwegian immigrant parents. He endured the heartache of losing both his father and older sister at a young age but was driven by the enduring presence of his mother's love. Dahl's experiences during his tumultuous boyhood, including the various boarding schools he attended, provided rich fodder for his vivid storytelling later in life. Initially a fighter pilot during World War II, Dahl's post-war career transitioned to writing, where his flair for dark humor and imaginative plots captivated audiences of all ages. Famed for his ability to blend whimsical storytelling with a keen insight into the minds of children, Dahl's work, including beloved titles such as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "The BFG," and "Matilda," consistently brims with creativity, moral integrity, and an often-mischievous delight in the absurd, cementing his legacy as one of the greatest story weavers of the 20th century.

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Chapter 1 Summary: The Reader of Books

In the chapter "The Reader of Books" from Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, the themes of parental neglect and a child's extraordinary intellectual abilities come to the fore. The chapter opens with an observation on the typical bias parents exhibit towards their children, often overstating their merits—a notion contrasted starkly by Matilda's own parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood, who are indifferent and dismissive towards both their children. Matilda is described as an exceptionally brilliant child, her abilities obvious even from a tender age, yet tragically unacknowledged by her inattentive parents. Her brother Michael is an ordinary boy, further accentuating Matilda's distinctiveness.

By the age of three, Matilda has taught herself to read from the discarded newspapers and magazines at home. Her parents, completely uninterested in fostering her intellectual talents, callously dismiss her precocity. In search of intellectual stimulation, Matilda requests a book from her father, only to be rebuffed and told to watch television instead, as any desire for a book is seen as a sign of being spoiled.

When she discovers the lack of books at home, Matilda seizes her independence by venturing on a daily trip to the local library while her mother is occupied with playing bingo—a habitual escape from her domestic life. Mrs. Phelps, the librarian, becomes a subtle, supportive presence in



Matilda's literary journey. The librarian is taken aback by Matilda's advanced reading level and encourages her exploration of the library. Though Mrs. Phelps is somewhat concerned about Matilda's safety, she chooses not to interfere too much with the child's affairs.

Matilda swiftly exhausts the children's section and transitions to celebrated adult classics, tackling **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens with ease, satisfying her thirst for more complex narratives. Under Mrs. Phelps' watchful eye, Matilda embarks on a remarkable literary odyssey, devouring a wide range of classic novels by authors like Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, Ernest Hemingway, and George Orwell. Her voracious reading introduces her to distant worlds, diverse cultures, and adventures, providing an escape from her confining reality.

In Matilda's makeshift reading sanctuary at home, she develops rituals that accompany her reading—a makeshift kitchen setup where she prepares herself hot drinks to enjoy alongside her reading. Accessing a realm beyond the confines of her small English village, the fictional worlds Matilda reads about expand her mental horizons, reinforcing Dahl's motif of the transformative power of books. Though Mrs. Phelps is astounded by Matilda's prodigious reading, she wisely restrains herself from drawing undue attention to the girl's extraordinary abilities. This chapter not only showcases Matilda's talents but also underscores the indifference of her parents, juxtaposed against the empathetic and nurturing Mrs. Phelps, who



provides Matilda with the tools she needs to explore her potential.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Power of Books as a Gateway to Strength and Independence

Critical Interpretation: Imagine being in a world where no one acknowledges your true potential, yet you find solace and strength within the pages of a book. Matilda teaches you that no matter the neglect or indifference around you, books hold the power to liberate and empower your mind. She taps into an undiscovered strength, venturing beyond her oppressive home life into realms full of adventure, wisdom, and life lessons through literature. Books become her companions, broadening her horizons and imparting courage and independence. In this way, she subtly shows you that seeking knowledge and solace in literature can forge a virtuous path, prompting you to embrace your uniqueness and strive for self-improvement despite external disregard.

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Chapter 2 Summary: Mr Wormwood, the Great Car Dealer

In the setting of Matilda's family home, a modest yet well-equipped house, we meet Mr. Wormwood, Matilda's father, who prides himself on his career as a second-hand car dealer. Mr. Wormwood is a man who revels in dishonesty and trickery, boasting about his cunning methods to sell cars. He uses sawdust to quiet noisy gears long enough for unsuspecting buyers to drive away before realizing they've been duped. He even shares his "ingenious" scheme to roll back car mileage using a high-speed electric drill, erasing tens of thousands of miles to make cars appear nearly new.

His son, Michael, seems to admire his father's deceptive practices, while Matilda, wise beyond her years, challenges him on his dishonest methods, pointing out the blatant cheating involved. Her father, however, dismisses her concerns and resorts to insults, revealing the animosity in their relationship. Mrs. Wormwood, Matilda's mother, supports her husband's objection to Matilda's challenge, firmly suggesting she keep her opinions to herself while they engage in their usual family routine of TV dinners and soap operas.

Matilda, unlike her family, has grown accustomed to the world beyond their limited view thanks to her extensive reading. Characters from books by authors like Dickens and Kipling have shaped her understanding of life,



painting a stark contrast to her parents' world of deception and superficiality. The family evening ends in frustration as Matilda is forbidden from eating her dinner in peace with a book, showcasing another way she is alienated from her family's values.

As she lies in bed, Matilda is consumed by the injustice and ignorance she faces at home. This internal conflict fuels her resolve to take small actions against her parents as a form of resistance and self-preservation. Despite being only five years old, she is determined to assert herself and plans to exact small victories against her father's behavior. This decision marks the beginning of her clever rebellion against her family's oppressive ways, setting the stage for the cleverness and resourcefulness that will define her character throughout the story.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Standing up for one's beliefs in the face of wrongdoing

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter of 'Matilda,' you realize the power and courage it takes to stand up for what you feel is right, even when you are surrounded by individuals whose morals and actions contradict your own. Matilda, wise beyond her years, embodies this strength and resilience as she confronts her father's dishonest actions, illustrating a profound message about the importance of integrity. Her determination not only serves as a blueprint for cultivating moral courage but also inspires you to challenge dishonesty and injustice in your own environment. Such brave acts of standing firm in your beliefs, despite opposition or familial pressure, underscore the transformative power of personal conviction and inspire us to nurture our own values, making a positive impact on those around us.



Chapter 3 Summary: and the Superglue

In this chapter from Roald Dahl's "Matilda," the young protagonist Matilda continues her resourceful antics against her neglectful and dishonest father, Mr. Wormwood. Driven by her sense of justice and silently rebelling against her father's arrogance and unethical behavior, she manages to execute a clever prank involving his prized hat, a flat-topped pork-pie with a feather and part of his daily ensemble.

On a morning just before Mr. Wormwood leaves for his underhanded dealings at his car garage, Matilda uses a walking stick to retrieve his hat from the coat peg. With meticulous timing, as he rises from breakfast, she applies a line of Superglue to the inner rim of the hat and replaces it. Unaware of the trick, Mr. Wormwood wears the hat to work, only to discover upon arrival that it is firmly stuck to his head, courtesy of the glue's strong adhesive properties.

Throughout the day, Mr. Wormwood tries to maintain a façade of nonchalance, hoping his staff interprets his hat-wearing as a deliberate choice rather than an embarrassing predicament. Upon returning home, the family's attempts to remove the hat are painful and unsuccessful, leading to comedic and exasperating exchanges. Matilda feigns innocence while offering a plausible story about a neighborhood boy's glue mishap, prompting scorn from Mrs. Wormwood about the boy's unfortunate



situation.

Mr. Wormwood is left to continue his evening routine with the hat still atop his head, even at dinner and while watching television, eliciting ridicule and disdain from both his wife and daughter. As bedtime arrives, he struggles with the hat's discomfort, especially as it prevents him from lying comfortably. Despite his wife's hopeful suggestion that the glue might loosen overnight, it remains intact by morning.

In a desperate measure to free her husband from his self-imposed headpiece, Mrs. Wormwood resorts to cutting the hat off piece by piece, resulting in an unintended monk-like bald circle and unsightly glue remnants on Mr. Wormwood's forehead. Matilda sardonically comments about his appearance at breakfast, likening it to having insects on his skin and provoking an emotional outburst from her exasperated father, who insists she remain silent.

Throughout this ordeal, Matilda's impish wit and resourcefulness shine through, underlying her struggle against the absurdity and injustice of her home life, with her parents remaining oblivious to her intelligence and hidden capabilities.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resourcefulness and intelligence can empower us to stand up against injustice.

Critical Interpretation: This chapter demonstrates that no matter how seemingly small or powerless you feel, your cleverness and wit can act as powerful tools to challenge and counteract unfair treatment.

Matilda's resourcefulness in dealing with her father's unethical behavior serves as a reminder that you can use your unique strengths and creativity to address imbalances or injustices you face in life.

Rather than feeling discouraged by obstacles, this story encourages you to find innovative ways to speak up for what you believe is right, pushing against oppression and highlighting the importance of standing tall with conviction. By channeling your intellect and ingenuity, you too can make impactful changes that defy expectations and create a ripple of positive influence.



Chapter 4: The Ghost

After the episode where Mr. Wormwood faced the consequences of Matilda's clever trick with Superglue, the Wormwood household experienced a brief period of calm. This tranquility was short-lived, however, as Mr. Wormwood once again let his irritations get the better of him. Likely having had a rough day at his garage, he returned home grumpy and on edge. As Matilda sat absorbed in reading "The Red Pony" by John Steinbeck, Mr. Wormwood's disdain for her love of reading flared up. In a fit of irrational jealousy, he tore up the library book, leaving Matilda to figure out how she'd replace it.

Unfazed, Matilda's sharp mind quickly turned to thoughts of retribution, inspired by a nearby friend, Fred, who owned a talkative parrot named Chopper. The parrot could perfectly mimic human speech, an ability that Matilda found intriguing. Matilda persuaded Fred to lend her Chopper for a single night, with the promise of her next week's pocket money as payment.

With the parrot in tow, Matilda cleverly concealed Chopper in the dining-room fireplace, waiting for the perfect moment to set her plan in motion. During the family's usual routine of having supper in front of the television, Chopper began to speak from his concealed position in the dining-room, his "Hullo, hullo, hullo" causing the family to panic, believing there were burglars in the house.



The alarmed Wormwoods armed themselves with makeshift weapons and, led by an uncharacteristically brave Matilda, ventured to confront the supposed intruders. The parrot's well-timed spooky voice of "Rattle my bones" heightened the tension, leading Matilda to convincingly suggest that the house was haunted.

Matilda's quick thinking and use of Fred's parrot as a faux-ghost successfully unsettled her parents, leaving Mr. Wormwood and his wife convinced that a ghost might inhabit their home, though there was no physical evidence of intruders. Through wit and imagination, Matilda craftily achieved her aim of unsettling her bullish father without falling into despair.

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Chapter 5 Summary: Arithmetic

The chapter begins with a tense scene involving Matilda, a smart and resourceful girl, who is dealing with her parents' fear of ghosts. Matilda tells her parents that she believes a ghost is haunting a room in their house—a room she claims they already knew was haunted. Her mother screams in fear, clutching her husband, and her father, visibly shaken, rushes out of the room. Once her parents have fled, Matilda retrieves a parrot from the chimney—a prank she devised to spook her parents—and returns it to her friend Fred, explaining that her parents adored the bird. This successful prank is part of Matilda's way of coping with her difficult home life.

Matilda's family life is challenging due to her parents' lack of understanding, love, and intelligence. They consistently dismiss her, forcing her to eat in front of the TV and leaving her home alone. To manage her frustration, Matilda devises pranks that serve as her "magic medicine" to punish her parents when they mistreat her. These pranks offer her a sense of control and a way to keep herself entertained amid their dysfunction. The parrot trick, for a time, makes her parents more civil toward her.

The narrative then shifts to an evening in the sitting-room after Mr. Wormwood, Matilda's father, returns home from work. He's wearing a gaudy suit and is in high spirits from a day of deceptive success at his used car business, bragging to Matilda's brother about the profits he's made through



unscrupulous practices. He boasts about tricking customers into paying inflated prices for cars by employing a range of dishonest methods.

Eager to involve his son in the business, Mr. Wormwood gives him a list of cars bought and sold and instructs him to calculate the profit on each. He stresses the importance of arithmetic in business, claiming he nearly worked it out in his head. However, Matilda, being intellectually gifted, quietly reveals the accurate total profit her father made that day: four thousand three hundred and three pounds and fifty pence. Her father, initially dismissing her, is stunned when he checks his notes and realizes she is correct. He accuses Matilda of cheating by reading his paper from across the room, which she denies, confident in her mathematical ability.

The chapter showcases Matilda's intelligence and wit, contrasting her abilities sharply with her family's shortcomings. Her cleverness is her power, a tool she uses both to navigate her dysfunctional family life and subtly challenge her parents' behavior.



Chapter 6 Summary: The Platinum-Blond Man

The scene opens with an argument between Matilda's father, Mr.

Wormwood, and her mother, Mrs. Wormwood, serving as a testament to the dysfunctional family dynamics Matilda faces. Mr. Wormwood is furious, accusing his remarkable daughter of cheating after Matilda correctly answers a math question. It's clear that Matilda's extraordinary intelligence is neither understood nor appreciated by her family.

Mrs. Wormwood enters with a dinner of fish and chips, a regular occurrence given her dislike of cooking after her exhausting bingo sessions. When confronted about his red face, Mr. Wormwood reiterates his baseless accusations against Matilda. Disregarding the tension, he demands the TV be turned on, dismissing the issue altogether.

Matilda, a young girl with a brilliant mind and clever wit, is frustrated by her father's unfair treatment. Her mind quickly concocts a plan for retribution. The next morning, before the household awoke, Matilda executed her ingenious plan. She switched her father's hair tonic with her mother's extra-strong peroxide hair dye. This was not just a prank; it was an act of poetic justice against her father's ignorance and arrogance.

At breakfast, Mr. Wormwood burst into the room with his customary bluster, oblivious to the impending surprise. Mrs. Wormwood was the first to notice



her husband's hair, now an eye-catching silvery-grey, and screamed in shock. The ensuing chaos unveiled Matilda's handiwork, with Mr. Wormwood's hair transformed to a dirty silver—eerily resembling the color of a tightrope-walker's tights.

In their confusion, the family scrambled for explanations. Matilda placidly suggested that her father had mistakenly used her mother's hair dye. This revelation led to panic about hair loss—Mrs. Wormwood, resigned to her husband's stupidity, recommended a dyeing solution and called the beauty parlor to manage the "emergency." Through it all, Matilda maintained her innocent, unassuming demeanor, quietly reveling in the satisfaction of clever retaliation.

The narrative then shifts to Matilda's introduction to formal education at Crunchem Hall Primary School, a formidable establishment run by the tyrannical Headmistress, Miss Trunchbull. Known for her disciplinary vigor, Miss Trunchbull looms ominously over students and staff alike, embodying a fearsome presence that elicits compliance through fear.

Against this backdrop of intimidation, Matilda encounters Miss Honey, her first teacher. Miss Honey is a stark contrast to the headmistress—a young, gentle teacher with a nurturing disposition that endears her to the children. Her kindness and understanding make her an instant favorite among the young students.



Miss Honey aims to foster a supportive learning environment. Aware of Miss Trunchbull's strict disciplinary methods, she warns the class about the headmistress's severity. Intent on aiding her pupils' academic progress, she introduces basic arithmetic at their first session, only to be astonished by Matilda's advanced comprehension. Matilda effortlessly recites the times tables and tackles complex multiplication beyond her age level, revealing her extraordinary intellectual capability.

The teacher's interest piqued, Miss Honey further quizzes Matilda, discovering her adeptness in mathematics and her previously untapped reading skills. Matilda has voraciously read through the children's collection at the library and begun adult literature, showcasing wisdom and maturity unusual for her age.

Their interaction highlights the disparity between Matilda's innate talents and her parents' neglectful attitudes. Miss Honey recognizes the prodigious talent before her, seeing in Matilda the same genius purported in historical figures like Mozart. Despite being dumbfounded, Miss Honey handles the situation calmly and encouragingly, recognizing her student's unique needs and potential.

Through Matilda's exchanges with Miss Honey, the narrative underscores themes of intelligence, neglect, and the power of nurturing environments.



Miss Honey's genuine interest in Matilda's abilities and her willingness to encourage them starkly contrasts with the apathy of Matilda's parents, illuminating the importance of supportive mentors in a child's life.

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Chapter 7 Summary: The Trunchbull

In the scene described, Miss Honey is taken aback by the extraordinary intellect of a young girl in her class named Matilda. Matilda, though just a child, expresses her love for Charles Dickens, showcasing an advanced level of maturity and intelligence. Despite the end-of-class bell ringing, Miss Honey is too captivated by Matilda's brilliance to focus on her other students.

Determined to advocate for Matilda, Miss Honey promptly seeks out the headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, to discuss Matilda's exceptional abilities. Miss Trunchbull, however, isn't just any headmistress; she is an imposing and intimidating figure who lacks the warmth and understanding typically associated with educational leaders. Once a celebrated athlete, she exudes physical strength and authority. Her appearance is more akin to an eccentric, formidable outdoorswoman than a nurturing headteacher.

Miss Honey bravely approaches the formidable headmistress, even though she usually avoids her. Inside Miss Trunchbull's study, Miss Honey is met with hostility. The headmistress is immediately dismissive and uninterested, ranting about Matilda's father, Mr. Wormwood—who is a local car dealer—and accusing Matilda of mischief, such as placing a stink-bomb under her desk. Trunchbull's disdain for children, especially girls, underscores her negative view of Matilda.



Undeterred, Miss Honey describes Matilda's advanced academic skills, particularly in mathematics and reading, suggesting that Matilda be moved to a higher grade to better accommodate her intelligence. However, Miss Trunchbull is skeptical and dismissive, equating Matilda's knowledge with mere parroting rather than understanding. She accuses Miss Honey of simply trying to offload Matilda onto another teacher. Despite the ridiculousness of Trunchbull's claims—all stemming from preconceived beliefs about the child—Miss Honey stands firm, attempting to convey Matilda's true potential.

Ultimately, the headmistress rejects Miss Honey's proposal, adhering to a rigid school policy that keeps children within their age groups, regardless of ability. The encounter leaves Miss Honey feeling defeated but resolute in her understanding of Matilda's potential. Miss Trunchbull's tirade ends with another unfounded accusation against Matilda—the alleged stink-bomb incident—highlighting the ongoing challenge Miss Honey faces in championing her gifted pupil against institutional indifference and prejudice.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Miss Honey's Courageous Advocacy

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, Miss Honey exemplifies steadfast determination and courage by advocating for Matilda in the face of unrelenting opposition from the authoritarian headmistress, Miss Trunchbull. Her actions inspire a profound lesson in courage and advocacy—an important reminder that standing up for what you believe in, even when faced with daunting challenges, can lead to positive change and empowerment. By bravely confronting institutional indifference, Miss Honey demonstrates that true education is nurtured not just through academic excellence but also through unwavering support and belief in the potential of every individual. This encourages us to champion the voiceless and stand resolute in our convictions, fostering an environment where talent and creativity can flourish despite the odds.



Chapter 8: The Parents

In this chapter from Roald Dahl's "Matilda," Miss Honey, an empathetic teacher, confronts the authoritarian Headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, who falsely accuses Matilda of wrongdoing. Despite feeling discouraged by the encounter, Miss Honey resolves to help the exceptionally intelligent Matilda achieve her potential. She sees Matilda as a bright child unfairly relegated by the system and decides to break protocol to help her grow academically.

Recognizing Matilda's outstanding abilities, which include a remarkable proficiency in reading and mathematics, Miss Honey decides to provide her with advanced textbooks covering subjects like algebra and geometry to study during class, allowing Matilda to learn at her own pace without making her feel distanced from her peers.

Determined to ensure Matilda is nurtured beyond the classroom, Miss Honey boldly decides to visit Matilda's parents, the Wormwoods, to discuss their daughter's exceptional talents and potential for advanced education or private tuition. However, when Miss Honey arrives at their home, she is met with indifference and superficiality. Mr. Wormwood is dismissive, absorbed more in his favorite TV program than his daughter's future, while Mrs. Wormwood, the mother, is uninterested, preferring Matilda focus on appearance and securing a wealthy husband rather than her intellect.



Despite Miss Honey's efforts to explain Matilda's potential, the Wormwoods remain unmoved, showcasing their ignorance and trivial concerns about appearances and money over the academic brilliance Matilda possesses. Miss Honey leaves with a realization of the challenges Matilda faces at home but also with a renewed determination to do her utmost to bridge the gap between Matilda's extraordinary potential and her unsupportive home environment. This chapter sets the stage for Miss Honey's pivotal role in helping Matilda navigate her talent and her struggles against the oppressive forces around her.

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Chapter 9 Summary: Throwing the Hammer

In Roald Dahl's "Matilda," the chapter introduces us to a pivotal moment in Matilda's school life, showcasing her new friendships and the notorious reputation of Miss Trunchbull, the fearsome headmistress. Matilda, a young girl with extraordinary intelligence, manages to blend in with her peers despite her brilliance. Her friendship with Lavender, a gutsy and adventurous classmate, blossoms quickly as they navigate the early days of the school year.

During a break, they meet Hortensia, an older student known for her rebellious acts against Miss Trunchbull. Hortensia shares tales of defiance and punishment, describing the infamous "Chokey"—a narrow, spiked cupboard where Miss Trunchbull sends misbehaving students. She recounts her mischievous escapades, including a prank with itching powder in Miss Trunchbull's gym knickers.

Miss Trunchbull, a towering and intimidating figure with a penchant for physical strength, often employs her Olympic hammer-throwing skills in her cruel treatment of the students. Hortensia warns Matilda and Lavender of Miss Trunchbull's relentless dislike for children and unpredictable wrath.

Their conversation is interrupted by an episode that unfolds in the playground. Miss Trunchbull targets Amanda Thripp, a student with long



pigtails, which the headmistress despises. In a terrifying display of strength, she grabs Amanda by her pigtails, swings her around, and hurls her over the playground fence. Though Amanda lands safely, the incident underscores Miss Trunchbull's tyrannical rule and the children's collective fear.

Despite witnessing such outrageous behavior, Hortensia notes that parents rarely complain, as Miss Trunchbull instills fear in both children and adults alike. The chapter starkly paints the oppressive atmosphere of the school and sets the stage for Matilda and Lavender's increasing resolve against the authority of Miss Trunchbull.



Chapter 10 Summary: Bruce Bogtrotter and the Cake

In this chapter of Roald Dahl's "Matilda," we are introduced to Bruce Bogtrotter and witness a dramatic episode involving the tyrannical Headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and her unusual brand of discipline. Matilda, an exceptionally intelligent young girl, explains to her friend Lavender how the fearsome Trunchbull gets away with her outrageous behavior. Matilda posits that Trunchbull's antics are so unbelievably atrocious that parents would refuse to believe their children's tales, thus allowing her to continue her tyranny unchallenged.

A prime example of Trunchbull's cruelty unfolds when all students are summoned to the Assembly Hall. As Matilda and Lavender speculate about the events to come, the tension heightens. Trunchbull commands Bruce Bogtrotter, a hefty eleven-year-old boy, to the stage for punishment. She accuses him of sneaking into the kitchen to steal a slice of her special chocolate cake. Bruce, puzzled and terrified, stands accused while Matilda and the rest of the audience observe with a mix of apprehension and intrigue.

In a show of psychological intimidation, Trunchbull forces Bruce to consume an enormous chocolate cake in front of the entire school as punishment for his alleged crime. She maliciously presents this as an act of hospitality, but her intent is cruelly punitive. The cook, unimpressed and complicit, brings out a gargantuan cake, and Bruce is pressured to eat it all.



Bruce hesitantly begins to consume the cake, while his classmates watch in tense anticipation. Even as the children suspect treachery, they quietly root for Bruce, hoping he can withstand the challenge. Surprisingly, Bruce manages to eat slice after slice, defying expectations. His determination rallies support from the audience, transforming the ordeal into a symbolic battle between Bruce and the authoritarian Trunchbull.

As Bruce nears victory, the children's anxiety gives way to a wave of encouragement and subdued cheering. When Bruce finally finishes the cake, the school erupts into applause, celebrating his perseverance and resilience. The scene climaxes with Trunchbull's furious, yet futile retaliation—smashing the empty cake platter on Bruce's head. Remarkably, Bruce remains unharmed and even sports a triumphant grin.

Through this entertaining yet threatening scene, Dahl underscores themes of unjust authority, courage against tyranny, and the power of collective support. Bruce's triumph over Trunchbull is a small victory for the children and a testament to their ability to face adversity with cleverness and tenacity.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Courage against tyranny

Critical Interpretation: This chapter highlights the profound significance of standing firm in the face of intimidation and injustice. As you delve into the tense atmosphere of the Assembly Hall, where Bruce Bogtrotter faces the absurd punishment imposed by Miss Trunchbull, you are reminded of the power of courage against seemingly insurmountable odds. Bruce's quiet defiance, coupled with the fervent support of his peers, embodies the spirit of resilience that can prevail over oppression. As you reflect on this narrative, let it serve as a beacon of inspiration in your life to confront and dispel intimidation, injustice, and tyranny wherever they arise. Remember, it's through collective courage and unwavering determination that even the smallest victories can leave a lasting impact. Bring that spirit into your world, and allow it to guide you in amplifying your voice against the forces that seek to undermine justice and integrity.



Chapter 11 Summary: Lavender

In the chaotic world of Crunchem Hall Primary School, Miss Trunchbull, the tyrannical headmistress, commands an intimidating presence. She's notorious for her strictness and punitive style, leaving students in fear of her wrath. Against this backdrop, young Lavender, a student with a penchant for mischief and admiration for the bold exploits of her peers, plots her own daring escapade.

Miss Honey, the gentle and kind teacher of the first-year class, announces that Miss Trunchbull will take over the class for one lesson every week. This news brings a mixture of dread and anticipation among the students. Miss Honey advises the class to be on their best behavior: clean clothes, clean faces, and correct manners are a must. The headmistress's visit is scheduled for two o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Miss Honey, with a cautious optimism, prepares the children for a test on their two-times table and spelling, cautioning them to answer promptly and politely.

Amidst this foreboding atmosphere, Lavender is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring there's a jug of water and a glass on the table for the headmistress's arrival—a seemingly small but essential duty. However, for Lavender, it's a golden opportunity to execute a grand scheme that would earn her the respect and admiration akin to that of Hortensia, an audacious elder student, and Matilda, the brilliantly gifted newcomer.



On her way home, Lavender devises a plan as audacious as the Battle of Waterloo, though her adversary is not Napoleon but the fearsome Miss Trunchbull. At the heart of her plan is a colony of newts living in the pond at the bottom of her garden. Newts, small amphibians resembling miniature crocodiles, are elusive but harmless creatures. Determined, Lavender captures one using her school hat. Carefully, she transfers the squirming newt into her pencil case lined with pond-weed and ensures it's secure yet able to breathe.

The next day, with the newt hidden in her satchel, Lavender is too excited to eat lunch. The suspense builds as the time draws near for Miss Trunchbull's lesson. Lavender finds one of the headmistress's jugs in the kitchen and fills it halfway with water. When the classroom is empty, she discreetly tips the newt into the jug, adding pond-weed to make the newt feel at home. The stage is set for her audacious prank, and she returns to the playground to wait for the lesson to begin, her heart racing with anticipation.

Lavender's cunning plan encapsulates the spirit of rebellion within the children of Crunchem Hall, as they find subtle ways to push back against an authoritarian regime that stifles their natural curiosity and ingenuity. In Lavender's eyes, this act of defiance is not just mischief—it's a brave strike against the overbearing headmistress.



Chapter 12: The Weekly Test

In Roald Dahl's "Matilda," the chapter "The Weekly Test" unfolds in a classroom overseen by Miss Honey, but quickly becomes dominated by the tyrannical Headmistress, Miss Trunchbull—a massive, fearsome figure known for her cruel and unorthodox methods of dealing with students. The narrative begins at two o'clock sharp when the class, including Miss Honey, collects for their weekly test. The lesson takes a dramatic turn with the arrival of Miss Trunchbull, who immediately establishes a threatening atmosphere.

The Trunchbull, known for her sadistic tendencies, harshly critiques the children, likening them to "nauseating little warts" and expressing her disdain for their presence at the school. Her authoritarian style is evident when she commands the students to rise and present their hands for inspection, a humiliating ritual that quickly targets Nigel Hicks for his dirty hands and a minor food stain on his shirt. Nigel, a bold and quick-witted student, sparks a tense exchange with the Headmistress. Despite Nigel's efforts to reason with her humorously, Miss Trunchbull swiftly punishes him by making him stand on one leg facing the wall.

Despite Miss Trunchbull's ill-temper, the class reveals its progress when Nigel mentions how they learned to spell "difficulty" through a simple song taught by Miss Honey—demonstrating Miss Honey's effective and nurturing



teaching style. Her teaching methods, which involve mnemonic songs, are dismissed by the dismissive Trunchbull, who prefers a more aggressive approach.

In a further demonstration of Trunchbull's abusive behavior, she attempts to quiz the students on multiplication tables, picking on Rupert and later Eric, whose incorrect answers lead to physical punishment. Rupert's mistake results in him being lifted from his seat by his hair as a form of correction, while Eric finds himself dangled by his ears until he spells "what" correctly. Such brutality showcases the Trunchbull's disdain for the students and her belief that only intimidation and fear can enforce learning.

Amid this chaos, Matilda Wormwood, a remarkably intelligent girl with an extraordinary intellect despite her young age, quietly mentions that she has read "Nicholas Nickleby" by Charles Dickens. Her declaration catches the skeptical Trunchbull's attention, prompting disbelief and suspicion from the Headmistress, who considers Matilda's claim to be a lie, viewing her and perhaps all cleverness with distrust, thus reinforcing Trunchbull's perception of clever people as deceitful.

This chapter not only highlights the stark contrast between Miss Honey's supportive teaching and Trunchbull's oppressive regime but also brings to the fore Matilda's brilliance and foreshadows her role in challenging the injustices enforced by tyrannical authority. As tension builds, Matilda's quiet



resilience and wit hint that she may have the potential to disrupt Miss Trunchbull's tyrannical grip—an intriguing setup for what's to come.

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Chapter 13 Summary: The First Miracle

The chapter "The First Miracle" from Roald Dahl's *Matilda* is a pivotal moment showcasing Matilda's telekinetic powers. The scene unfolds in a classroom where the imposing and tyrannical Headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, sits for the first time during a lesson, reflecting on her disdain for children. Her view of children as pests highlights her cruel nature and sets the stage for the ensuing conflict.

Miss Trunchbull, never one to hold back, imagines a school without children, expressing her extreme dislike with thoughts of bizarre inventions to eliminate them. Her harshness starkly contrasts with the gentle and compassionate Miss Honey, Matilda's teacher, who silently disagrees from the back of the class.

The atmosphere shifts when a newt, secretly placed by a student named Lavender, inadvertently ends up in Miss Trunchbull's water jug. When Miss Trunchbull pours herself a glass, the newt unceremoniously plops into her drink, causing her to leap up in fright. The children, both shocked and amused, speculate aloud about the creature's identity, adding to the chaos.

Miss Trunchbull, humiliated and enraged by the incident, immediately accuses Matilda of the prank, displaying her unfounded favoritism against Matilda, fueled by warnings from Matilda's father. Matilda, who had no part



in the prank, finds herself in unfamiliar territory—angry at being wrongly accused.

In a surge of frustration and determination, Matilda discovers an extraordinary power within her. Focusing intensely on the glass, she wills it to tip over, and to her astonishment, it does. The glass spills its contents, including the newt, all over Miss Trunchbull, prompting her to erupt in a furious outburst.

Despite the chaos, Matilda remains calm, unaffected by Miss Trunchbull's threats, and realizes her power can protect her. The class supports Matilda, affirming that nobody moved, causing Miss Trunchbull to further unravel.

Miss Honey subtly stands her ground, defending the children and Matilda, suggesting Miss Trunchbull might have knocked over the glass herself. As the chapter closes, Matilda basks in her newfound confidence, aware that her inner strength is more formidable than the looming presence of Miss Trunchbull. This marks the beginning of Matilda's journey to harness her powers and stand against injustice.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Discover and trust your inner strength

Critical Interpretation: 'The First Miracle' in *Matilda* serves as a potent reminder that in moments of adversity, you possess untapped potential to overcome challenges. When Matilda's overwhelming frustration from being wrongly accused by Miss Trunchbull erupts, she unravels her newfound telekinetic powers. This pivotal event can inspire you to dig deep within yourself, fostering your untapped inner strength and resilience to confront life's challenges. By trusting in your unique abilities, you gain confidence to stand against injustice and transform adversities into opportunities, just like Matilda does. Embrace the realization that your inner power, once discovered, can steer you through tumultuous times and emerge triumphant.

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Chapter 14 Summary: The Second Miracle

In this narrative, the reader is introduced to a tense classroom moment between the tyrannical Headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and the students, with Miss Honey, the teacher, doing her best to manage the aftermath. Miss Trunchbull leaves the classroom in a rage, and Miss Honey dismisses the class, but Matilda stays behind because she has experienced something extraordinary that she feels she must share.

Matilda, the curious and intelligent protagonist of this story, has discovered an incredible ability—she can move objects with her mind, a skill known as telekinesis. After an encounter where a glass of water mysteriously tips over without her touching it, Matilda realizes she has an unusual gift that allows her to perform actions with just her mind. Unsure about the implications of her newfound power and who to trust, Matilda feels that her teacher, Miss Honey, is the only adult who might understand.

During a private conversation, Matilda hesitantly explains to Miss Honey what happened with the glass of water. Her vivid description of making the glass tip over through sheer willpower and concentration astonishes Miss Honey, who is initially skeptical but eventually witnesses Matilda's power firsthand. When Matilda repeats the miraculous act in front of Miss Honey, the teacher is left in awe, marveling at the child's extraordinary capability and the calm that follows Matilda's exertion.



Miss Honey, embodying kindness and understanding, doesn't doubt Matilda's account. Instead, she offers a safe space for Matilda, inviting her to discuss the matter privately at her cottage over tea, promising not to reveal Matilda's secret to anyone. The bond between Matilda and Miss Honey strengthens as they embark on understanding the meaning of this ability, suggesting a deeper exploration of Matilda's powers and the significance behind them in the broader narrative.

This scene marks a turning point in the story, highlighting themes of trust, understanding, and the struggle against oppressive authority figures, with Matilda's unique abilities serving as both a source of personal empowerment and a catalyst for change in her life.

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Chapter 15 Summary: Miss Honey's Cottage

In these chapters from "Matilda" by Roald Dahl, we witness a deeply personal moment between two key characters, Matilda and Miss Honey. Matilda, a young girl with extraordinary intellectual and telekinetic abilities, shares a burgeoning friendship with her gentle and kind-hearted teacher, Miss Honey.

The first chapter, "Miss Honey's Cottage," begins with Matilda and Miss Honey walking through the village together. As they leave the bustling high street, Matilda's excitement about her newfound telekinetic powers bursts forth. She eagerly talks about the potential of her abilities, while Miss Honey calmly urges caution, emphasizing the need to handle these mysterious forces carefully. They discuss the phenomenon that Matilda's powers represent, and Miss Honey suggests they explore these abilities further, albeit with care.

As they continue their walk, the scenery transitions from the village to the idyllic, rural surroundings, highlighting Miss Honey's simple lifestyle. She points out different types of trees and plants, enriching Matilda's already vast knowledge. They finally arrive at Miss Honey's humble abode, a cottage nestled in nature, reminiscent of a dwelling from a fairy tale. This sets a stage that allows Matilda to envision the cottage as otherworldly, enhancing the depth of Miss Honey's mysterious life.



Inside the modest cottage, Miss Honey displays warmth and humility as she prepares a simple tea for Matilda. Throughout, Matilda's curiosity about Miss Honey's stark living conditions grows, leading to a sensitive conversation about Miss Honey's circumstances.

In the second chapter, "Miss Honey's Story," Miss Honey begins to reveal more about her difficult past. At twenty-three years old, she had faced significant tragedies: her mother's death, followed by her father's mysterious death, which left her alone with an abusive aunt. This aunt, owing possibly to nefarious means, gained control of the family home and enslaved Miss Honey under her guardianship, robbing her of a normal childhood. Miss Honey shares the joys of her eventual escape, achieved through sheer willpower and the discovery of her small cottage, where she now lives on a meager income, sustaining herself with the joys of teaching and minimal comforts.

As the story unfolds, Miss Honey narrates the oppressive control her aunt exerted over her, crafting a life of servitude and fear. Her escape was a monumental act of courage, fueled by a yearning for independence that inspired her to seek a life, however frugal, away from her aunt's domination. In this intimate moment, Matilda comes to realize Miss Honey's plight and admires her bravery and self-reliance.



The climax of the chapter reveals the true identity of Miss Honey's oppressor—her aunt is none other than Miss Trunchbull, the tyrannical headmistress of Matilda's school. This revelation layers the narrative with conflict and enhances the urgency of Matilda's desire to help Miss Honey reclaim her rightful inheritance and freedom.

As the chapter closes, Matilda contemplates how to use her unique powers to aid Miss Honey, hinting at a burgeoning plan to confront the injustice they both face. Together, Matilda and Miss Honey form a poignant alliance, against a backdrop of mystery and magic, setting the stage for the transformative actions that follow.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, Miss Honey's tale of escape from her oppressive aunt, Miss Trunchbull, stands as a beacon of resilience and determination. You learn that even when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges and unjust treatment, developing the courage to break free and redefine your own path is possible. Despite the hurdles of a harsh past, Miss Honey's life is a testament to the power of self-reliance and inner strength. Her story inspires you to confront your fears and seek a brighter future, reminding you that perseverance is a key ingredient in overcoming adversity. This narrative encourages you to recognize your abilities, just like Matilda does, and use them to affect positive change in your own life and the lives of those around you.



Chapter 16: The Names

In this chapter of "Matilda" by Roald Dahl, Matilda uncovers more about Miss Honey's difficult past. Miss Honey reveals to Matilda that her cruel and tyrannical headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, is actually her aunt who raised her after her father's death. Matilda is appalled, already aware of Miss Trunchbull's violent behavior towards students, having witnessed an incident where she threw a girl by her pigtails over a playground fence.

Miss Honey shares troubling details of her upbringing, explaining how after her father's untimely death when she was very young, Miss Trunchbull subjected her to harsh treatment, including making her bathe alone and even holding her head underwater if she was unsatisfied. Despite the urge to delve deeper into her traumatic past, Miss Honey restrains herself and focuses back on Matilda's unique abilities.

Matilda confesses to Miss Honey about her telekinetic powers, her ability to move and push objects with her mind. Miss Honey, intrigued, suggests conducting experiments to understand the extent of Matilda's powers. However, Matilda declines the offer for the moment, opting instead to return home to ponder over all she's learned. Miss Honey respects her decision, regretfully apologizing for the lengthy discussion.

On their quiet walk back to Matilda's house, the thoughtful child processes



all the information while Miss Honey advises her to forget what she has heard. Matilda, persistent in her curiosity, promises not to speak of the afternoon's revelations but hints at an emerging idea. She asks Miss Honey three questions about her late father and Miss Trunchbull. The first question reveals that Miss Trunchbull called Miss Honey's father by his first name, Magnus. Unanswered, these questions leave a lingering sense of curiosity, hinting at Matilda's budding plan to address the injustices faced by her beloved teacher.

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Chapter 17 Summary: The Practice

In these chapters from Roald Dahl's "Matilda," the clever and resourceful Matilda Wormwood delves into a practice that reveals her telekinetic abilities. In a conversation with her gentle teacher, Miss Honey, Matilda uncovers some curious facts about her family. Miss Honey reveals that her father was called Magnus, Miss Trunchbull—her cruel legal guardian—was known as Agatha, and her own name was Jenny. This revelation sparks a plan in Matilda's innovative mind.

Matilda's intention is to aid Miss Honey, who is living under the oppressive shadow of Miss Trunchbull. She devises a strategy that hinges on her developing ability to manipulate objects with her mind, what she refers to as her “eye-power.” Matilda starts her practice by using a cigar from her father's stash, a perfect proxy to develop her magical skill.

Once alone in her room, Matilda focuses intensely on the cigar, channeling the energy she feels flowing behind her eyes, and remarkably, she succeeds in moving it without touching it. Overjoyed by this initial success, she realizes the potential of not just pushing, but lifting objects through sheer mental focus.

Persistently, Matilda practices each day after school. Her dedication begins to pay off. With intense concentration, she gradually learns to lift the cigar



into the air and even maneuver it as she wishes. Though initially exhausting, this disciplined regimen culminates in Matilda mastering the ability, a breakthrough that not only fills her with a sense of power but also paves the way for implementing her plan to help Miss Honey reclaim her life from Miss Trunchbull's tyrannical grip. By the end of these chapters, Matilda is invigorated, her confidence bolstered by her newfound telekinetic skill, and ready to use it to fight tyranny and restore justice for Miss Honey.

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Chapter 18 Summary: The Third Miracle

In this pivotal chapter from Roald Dahl's "Matilda," we see Matilda preparing to put her extraordinary powers to the test. The stage is set when Miss Honey, the kind and gentle teacher loved by her students, warns her class to be cautious as the formidable Headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, is scheduled to lead the first lesson after lunch. Miss Trunchbull, known for her tyrannical teaching tactics and brute strength, has left a history of trauma among the students. The atmosphere in Miss Honey's class is tense, reflecting a mix of fear and anticipation.

As the dreaded lesson begins, Trunchbull, in her intimidating manner, swiftly takes charge and belittles the students, starting with Wilfred, a boy familiar with her wrath. Wilfred is commanded to recite the three-times table backward, a task designed to humiliate him and put Miss Honey's teaching abilities into question. The scene underscores both Trunchbull's cruelty and her unyielding nature.

Observing silently, Matilda is both resolute and strategic. When Trunchbull escalates her harsh attack on Wilfred with more complex multiplication questions and physical aggression, Matilda seizes this moment to unleash her supernatural powers. Using solely her mind, she manipulates a piece of chalk to write on the board in full view of everyone. The message seems to invoke a "ghostly" presence, shocking Trunchbull into believing she is being



haunted by Magnus, Miss Honey's deceased father.

This supernatural incidence leaves the once-unshakable Trunchbull horrified, and she faints—a sight the entire class never expected to see. The children and teachers, witnessing the unraveling of their greatest bully, feel a mix of disbelief and triumph. Miss Honey attends to the unconscious Trunchbull, and Nigel, one of the defiant students, heroically drenches her with water in an amateur attempt to revive her, earning the admiration of his peers.

The chapter captures a climactic moment in the story as Matilda's preternatural abilities are employed to break the oppressive atmosphere Miss Trunchbull created. In doing so, she empowers her classmates and validates Miss Honey, all while feeling a deep sense of self-satisfaction and awareness of her otherworldly capabilities. Matilda's covert defeat of Miss Trunchbull leads to the unprecedented and symbolic downfall of a tyrant, setting the tone for the changes to come within the school.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Courageously Stand Against Injustice

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 18 of 'Matilda,' you're inspired to find the courage within yourself to stand up against oppression and injustice. Just like Matilda, who used her incredible powers to confront the tyrannical Miss Trunchbull, you also have unique strengths that can be harnessed to challenge unfairness in the world around you. It's about recognizing your inner resolve and believing in your capability to create change, no matter how insurmountable the opposition might seem. Remember, even in the face of fear and doubt, your actions, rooted in courage and justice, can lead to the downfall of fearsome foes and the triumph of justice.

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Chapter 19 Summary: A New Home

In a climactic turn of events, Miss Trunchbull, the tyrannical headmistress, disappears following a dramatic fainting episode at the school. The next day, the school's deputy head, Mr. Trilby, attempts to contact her but discovers that her house, The Red House, is mysteriously empty of personal belongings, suggesting she has vanished without a trace.

Shortly after, Miss Honey, Matilda's kind and supportive teacher, receives an unexpected letter from local solicitors. The letter reveals that she is the rightful heir to The Red House, a property she was wrongfully deprived of due to the malfeasance of Miss Trunchbull. In addition, Miss Honey's father's savings, believed lost, are also hers. Overjoyed, Miss Honey moves into her childhood home, where everything remains as it was, allowing Matilda to become a frequent visitor and deepening their friendship.

With the oppressive Miss Trunchbull gone, Mr. Trilby is appointed as the new headteacher, and Matilda's exceptional intelligence is recognized properly as she is moved to a higher class. Despite her earlier telekinetic powers fading, Matilda remains content as she is now challenged intellectually.

Amidst these positive changes, Matilda returns home one evening to discover her family in a frenzied rush, hastily packing to flee to Spain. Her



father, involved in criminal activities as a receiver of stolen cars, likely faces imminent arrest. Matilda is devastated, not wanting to leave her beloved school or Miss Honey.

Desperate, Matilda runs back to Miss Honey's house and pleads to stay with her. Miss Honey, though willing to care for Matilda, explains she cannot take her without her parents' consent. Encouraged by Matilda's conviction that her parents might agree due to their indifference, they hurry to confront the Wormwoods. In a frantic final encounter, Matilda begs her parents to let her stay with Miss Honey, highlighting that it would relieve them of a burden. Her father, eager to escape quickly, consents without second thought, allowing Matilda to remain in England with Miss Honey as her new guardian.

As her family drives away without a backward glance, Matilda finds herself finally free and welcomed into a nurturing environment where she can thrive. Miss Honey offers her the stability and care she'd longed for, marking a blissful beginning for both of them.

