



This adaptation of a Roald Dahl's work tells the story of Matilda Wormwood, a gifted girl forced to put up with a crude, distant father and mother. Worse, the evil principal at Matilda's school, is a terrifyingly strict bully. However, when Matilda realizes she has the power of telekinesis, she begins to defend her friends from Trunchbull's wrath and fight back against her unkind parents.

## English exercises for: Matilda.

“No Child is fully educated or  
Adequately prepared to live in an  
Increasingly technological world  
Without understanding the meaning  
And beauty transmitted by the Arts.”  
-J.P. Getty Trust

### Before watching the play

1. Go over the following vocabulary. Look up the words in the dictionary if necessary.

Fast	To be fed up
To devour	Twit
Hopeful	Coincidence
Comforting	Brain
Package	To explode
Library	To service
To set foot	Owner
To be supposed	Founder
Dear	Whatever
Pie	Principal
Household	To warn
Chore	Tight
To earn	To run a tight ship
Profit	Discipline
Cheat	Rod
Smart	To beat
Smart aleck	Motto
To be taught a lesson	Mistake
Unintentionally	Nasty
Advice	To deal
To introduce	To cheat
Revolutionary	To weld
To punish	Bumper
To deserve	Crook
Trash	Illegal
Filth	Dumb

Swing  
Regardless  
To hit  
Riding crop  
Mostly  
Scare  
Worse  
Shot put  
Javelin  
Hammer throw  
Narrow  
Nail  
To stick out  
Remarkable  
To appreciate  
To seem  
To interfere  
To review  
Brand-new  
To raise  
Tables  
To multiply  
To dismiss  
Wart  
Sum  
To handle  
To get rid of  
Slothful  
Coward  
To grow up  
To show off  
To boast  
To deceive  
Loving  
Caring  
To talk back  
Villainous  
sack

Goat  
Slime  
Smarty  
Behaviour  
To pay back  
Piss-worm  
Liar  
To yell  
Ranting  
Raving  
Key  
To unlock  
Charity  
Raffle  
Beat it  
Rotten  
To move aside  
To be aware  
Skill  
Instruction  
To slave away  
Snot-nosed  
To burst in  
Aunt  
Grownup  
Superstitious  
Treasure  
Portrait  
To hang  
Scum  
To allow  
To fill  
Gap  
Unexplainable  
Permission  
To stand  
Stomach  
Shoulder

To recognize

To wear

Ribbon

To belong

Demented

Worm

To own

Crow

To land

Dropping

Bumblebee

## 2. Activity 2:

Put each word/expression from the vocabulary in Activity 1 in its corresponding column of the chart below:

<u>Noun</u>	<u>Verb</u>	<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Adverb</u>
Package	To devour	Fast	Unintentionally

### 3. About the author:

**Roald Dahl** was born in Wales, in 1916. He was an unhappy schoolboy, so after graduating from school he decided to look for adventure. He first worked for the Shell company in East Africa, where he lived in the jungle, and then he joined the Royal Air Force, or RAF, as a pilot, when the Second World War broke out. He was injured while he was flying, so in 1942 he went to Washington, where he started his career as a writer.

In 1943 Dahl published *The Gremlins*, his first children's book, which was followed by many others. They were all very successful because he really connected with the children's interests. He later admitted he couldn't have written children's stories if he hadn't had children of his own. His books are based on bedtime stories he made up for his own children.

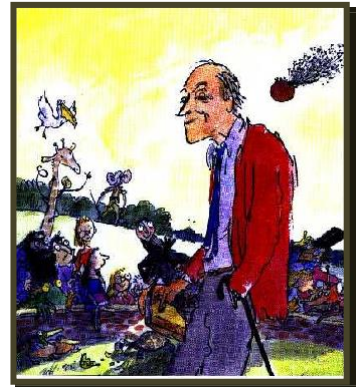
He also wrote books for adults. His adult books are stories that combine humour and a touch of cruelty. They are full of fantasy and imagination, usually with a shocking ending and deceptive intrigues. Nevertheless, Dahl recognised that the ideas for stories didn't just come out: he had to think hard to get them.

As for his family life, he married Patricia Neal, an actress, and they had five children. However, they were not happy. Patricia suffered a stroke but later recovered. Their marriage ended in divorce.

Dahl died in Oxford in 1990. He was a generous man who always donated money to those who needed it. He was awarded several important prizes. His secret for becoming a good writer is a lively imagination and hard work.

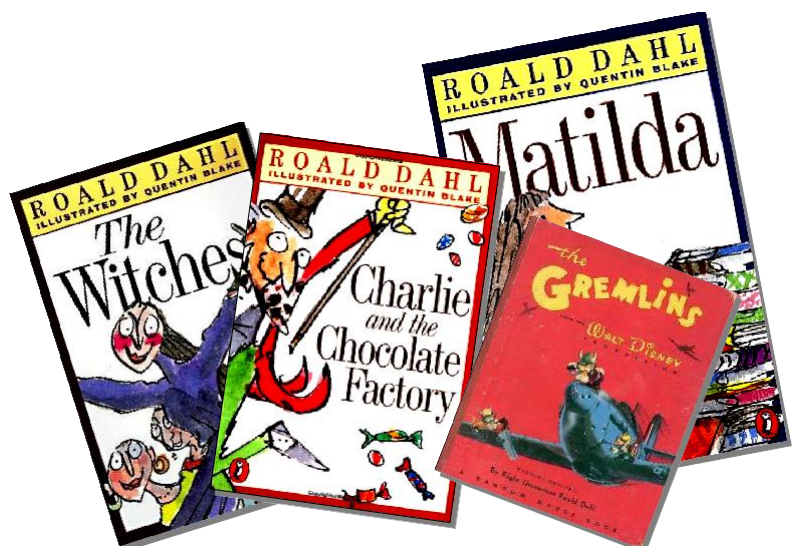
ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)? CORRECT THE FALSE ONES.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a) Roald Dahl was born in America in 1916.                 | T / F |
| b) He was an unhappy schoolboy.                            | T / F |
| c) Roald Dahl first worked for Shell Company in East Asia. | T / F |
| d) In the Second World War he joined the army as a sailor. | T / F |
| e) His marriage with Patricia Neal ended in divorce.       | T / F |
| f) He wasn't a generous man.                               | T / F |



ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Where did Roald Dahl start his career as a writer?
- How is his first children's book called?
- How are his adult books' endings?
- How many children did he have?
- When and where did he die?



4. Write the correct form (past tense) of the verb on the lines:

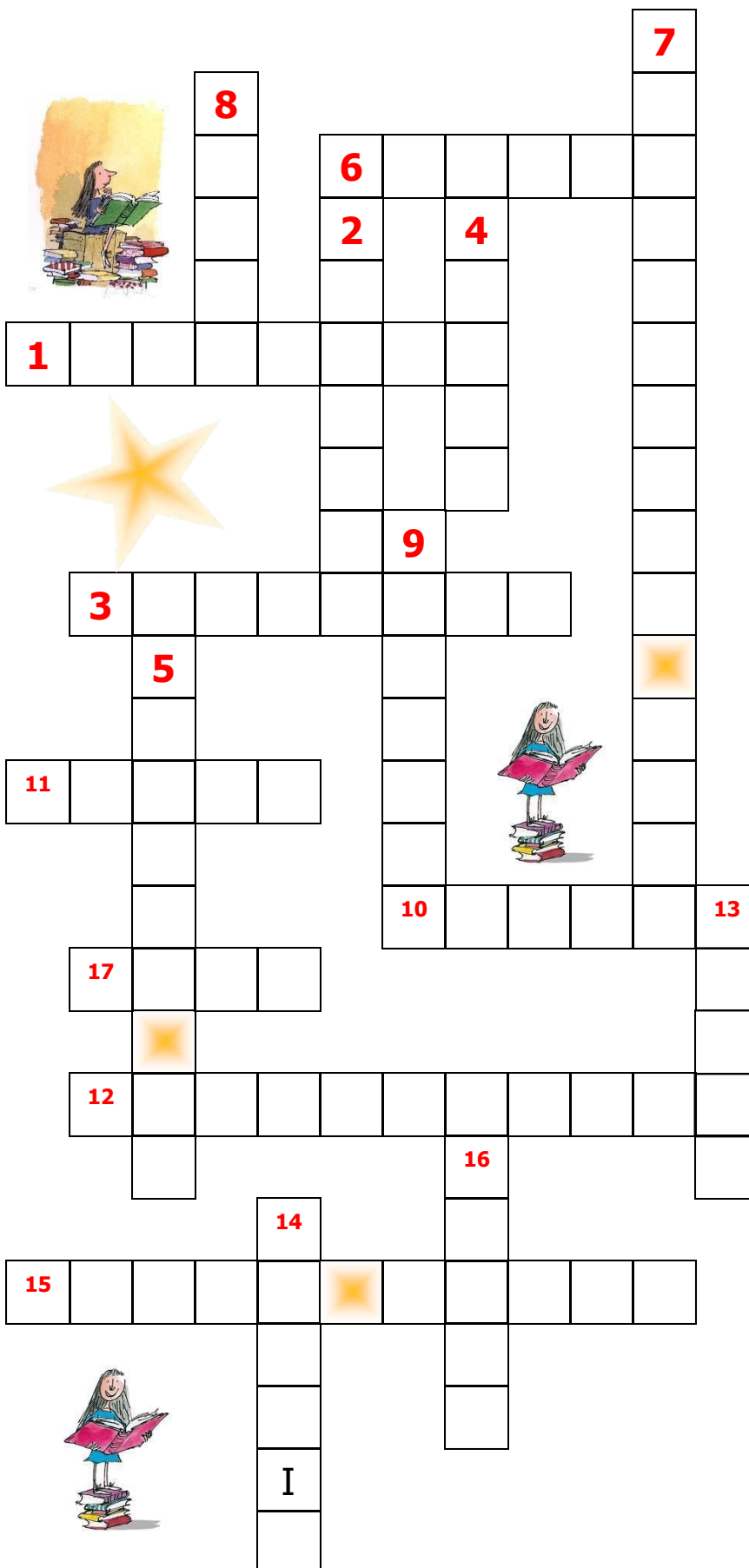
Matilda \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) a very intelligent young girl who \_\_\_\_\_ (to love) reading books. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to teach) herself to read at the age of three. There \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) only cookbooks and magazines in the house. When she \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) four years old, she \_\_\_\_\_ (to go) to the library and \_\_\_\_\_ (to start) reading books for hours and days. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to read) books levelled for people older than her age. Her favourite author \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) Charles Dickens, and her favourite book \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) The Red Pony by John Steinbeck. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to have) the ability to calculate math problems with her brain and \_\_\_\_\_ (not / to need) a calculator.

Her father \_\_\_\_\_ (not / to like) to read. He \_\_\_\_\_ (to tell) her to watch television instead. Matilda's father \_\_\_\_\_ (to sell) cars. He \_\_\_\_\_ (to tell) proudly about how he \_\_\_\_\_ (to cheat) customers. Matilda \_\_\_\_\_ (to find) this very rude and \_\_\_\_\_ (to play) a prank on her father every time he \_\_\_\_\_ (to do) something wrong.

There was one time when Matilda \_\_\_\_\_ (to discover) that she \_\_\_\_\_ (to have) supernatural powers. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to focus) on a glass with her eyes and the glass \_\_\_\_\_ (to tip) over.

Only one person \_\_\_\_\_ (to understand) Matilda. It \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) Miss Honey. In the end she \_\_\_\_\_ (to help) Matilda by inviting her to stay with her to have a better life with her.

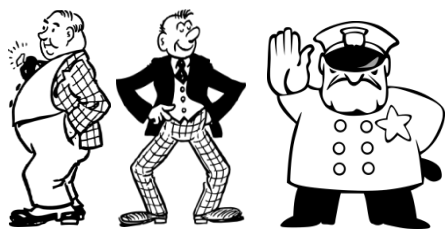
# 5. Matilda's Crossword based on the book:



1. Name of the five-year-old girl who reads Dickens and Hemingway.
2. Adjective that describes what Matilda is.
3. Where Matilda goes to in order to get some books.
4. What Mr. Wormwood buys and sells.
5. What does the Wormwoods always do while eating?
6. What Miss Honey does.
7. What is Bruce Bogtrotter forced to eat.
8. The small creature sitting/swimming in the glass of Miss Trunchbull.
9. What you do when you have a disagreement.
10. Something that sticks two things together.
11. To tell someone that something bad or dangerous may happen.
12. Who is Miss Honey's aunt? Miss...
13. A document that states who should receive your possessions when you die.
14. Where Matilda's parents and brother are headed for.
15. Whom does Matilda stay with when her parents leave?
16. What do the children play on Miss Trunchbull?
17. What sticks to Mr. Wormwood's head?



6. Use the comparative or the superlative.



James

Tom

Robert

James is \_\_\_\_\_ than Tom. (fat)

Tom is \_\_\_\_\_ than Robert. (slim)

Robert is the \_\_\_\_\_. (fat)



Oliver

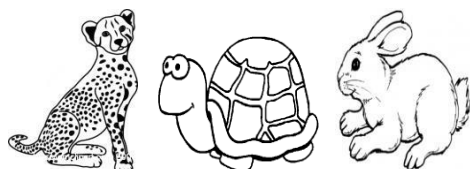
David

John

John is \_\_\_\_\_ than David. (young)

Oliver is \_\_\_\_\_ than David. (old)

John is the \_\_\_\_\_. (young)



Leopard

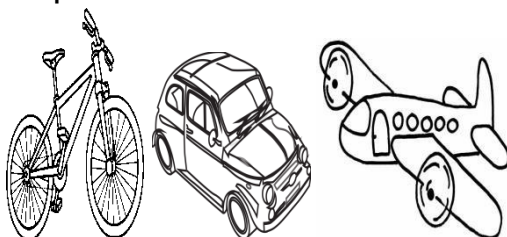
Turtle

Rabbit

The leopard is \_\_\_\_\_ than the rabbit. (fast)

The turtle is \_\_\_\_\_ than the rabbit. (slow)

The leopard is the \_\_\_\_\_. (fast)



Bicycle

Car

Plane

The bicycle is \_\_\_\_\_ than the car.

(comfortable)

The plane is \_\_\_\_\_ than the car. (comfortable)

The plane is the \_\_\_\_\_. (comfortable)



Sam

Tom

Max

Tom is \_\_\_\_\_ than Max. (angry)

Sam is \_\_\_\_\_ than Tom. (angry)

Sam is the \_\_\_\_\_. (angry)



Football

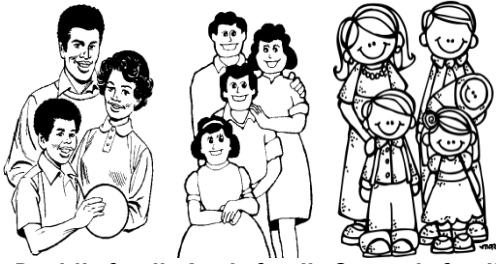
Tennis

Basketball

Tennis is \_\_\_\_\_ than basketball. (popular)

Football is \_\_\_\_\_ than Basketball. (popular)

Football is the \_\_\_\_\_. (popular)



David's family Ann's family George's family

Ann's family is \_\_\_\_\_ than David's family. (large)  
 David's family is \_\_\_\_\_ than George's family.  
 (small)  
 George's family is the \_\_\_\_\_. (large)



Tree 1 Tree 2 Tree 3

Tree 1 is \_\_\_\_\_ than tree 2.

(short)

Tree 2 is \_\_\_\_\_ than tree 3. (tall)

Tree 1 is the \_\_\_\_\_. (short)

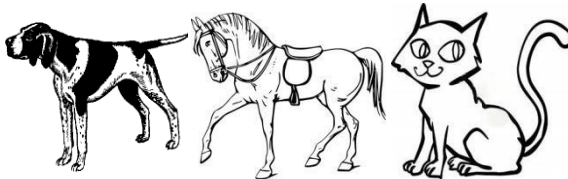


Sarah Jane Maria

Sarah is \_\_\_\_\_ than Jane. (sad)

Maria is \_\_\_\_\_ than Sarah. (sad)

Maria is the \_\_\_\_\_. (sad)



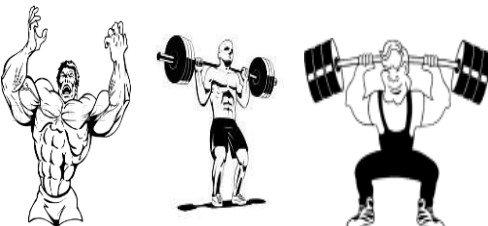
Dog Horse Cat

The dog is \_\_\_\_\_ than the cat. (friendly)

The horse is \_\_\_\_\_ than the cat.

(friendly)

The dog is the \_\_\_\_\_. (friendly)



Bill Kevin Matthew

Kevin is \_\_\_\_\_ than Bill. (strong)

Matthew is \_\_\_\_\_ than Kevin. (weak)

Bill is the \_\_\_\_\_. (strong)



Jonathan Einstein Brian

Brian is \_\_\_\_\_ than Jonathan. (intelligent)

Jonathan is \_\_\_\_\_ than Einstein.

(intelligent)

Einstein is the \_\_\_\_\_. (intelligent)

## 7. Listening comprehension:

**Songs from the play:**

- Read the lyrics and underline the words you don't understand.
- Listen and follow the lyrics.
- Try to deduce the meaning of the words you don't understand from the context.
- Look up the words you still don't understand in the dictionary.
- Listen and sing each line from the song.
- Sing the whole song.

**Scene from the play:**

- Read the whole scene and underline the words you don't understand.
- Listen and follow it in the script.
- Try to deduce the meaning of the words you don't understand from the context.
- Look up the words you still don't understand in the dictionary.
- Listen and repeat each line from the script.
- Read the whole scene with a partner.

8. How would you describe Matilda? What do you like or dislike about her? (about 80 words)

[illegible]



## **DISCUSSION WITH THE ACTORS**

After watching the play

1. Draw the story using the following guidelines:

- 1) Matilda is born and their family isn't happy about it.
- 2) Matilda goes to the public library to get several books.
- 3) Matilda starts school.
- 4) Miss Trunchbull tries to discover who has got into her house.

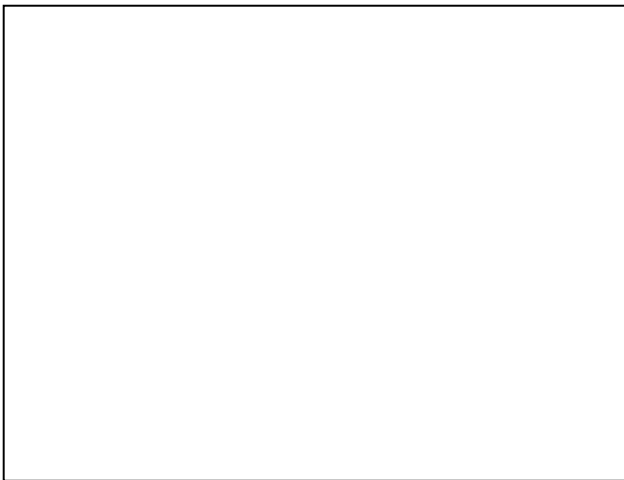
1)



2)



3)



4)



2. Make a list of 10 points to show how The Performers Inc. theatre company adapted Matilda film to the stage:

I.E.:

The character of Miss Honey is played by a male actor; therefore it is a male character called Mr. Honey.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

3. Write a paragraph describing Miss Trunchbull's life after ten years.

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4. Put the following conversation between Matilda, Michael and Harry in order:

Matilda: I want to be in school. I told you, dad. I was supposed to start school in September. You wouldn't listen.

Harry: Tell me about it!

Matilda: I am six and a half, mommy.

Michael: You're four.

Harry: Any packages come today? Where did all this come from?

Matilda: Six and a half.

Michael: You know, sometimes I think there is something wrong with this girl.

Harry: You've never set foot in a library. You're only four years old.

Zinnia: Four.

Matilda: I want to go to school.

Zinnia: Five then.

Matilda: I was six in August.

Michael: You're a liar.

Matilda: Six and a half.

Harry: School! Out of the question. Who would be here to do the households chores? Now, go watch TV like a good kid.

Matilda: The library.

Michael: If you were six and half you'd be in school already!

Harry: Get up! Get up! Dearest pie, how old is Matilda?

# ANSWERS

## English exercises for: Matilda.

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### Before watching the play

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### 2. Activity 2:

Put each word/ expression from the vocabulary in Activity 1 in its corresponding column of the chart below:

<u>Noun</u>	<u>Verb</u>	<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Adverb</u>
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Library	To set foot	Hopeful	Whatever
Pie	To be supposed	Comforting	Regardless
Chore	To earn	Dear	Mostly
Profit	To be taught a lesson	Household	
Cheat	To introduce	Smart	
Advice	To punish	Smart aleck	
Trash	To deserve	Revolutionary	
Filth	To be fed up	Whatever	
Twit	To explode	Tight	
Coincidence	To service	Nasty	
Brain	To warn	Illegal	
Owner	To run a tight ship	Worse	
Founder	To beat	Narrow	
Principal	To deal	Remarkable	
Discipline	To cheat	Brand-new	
Rod	To weld	Slothful	
Motto	To hit	Coward	
Mistake	To stick out	Loving	
Bumper	To appreciate	Caring	



Crook	To seem	Villainous	
Dumb	To interfere	Smarty	
Swing	To review	Ranting	
Riding crop	To raise	Raving	
Scare	To multiply	Rotten	
Shot put	To dismiss	Snot-nosed	
Javelin	To handle	Superstitious	
Hammer throw	To get rid of	Unexplainable	
Nail	To grow up	Demented	
Tables	To show off		
Wart	To boast		
Sum	To deceive		
Sack	To talk back		
Goat	To pay back		
Slime	To yell		
Behaviour	To unlock		
Piss-worm	To move aside		
Liar	To be aware		
Key	To slave away		
Charity	To burst in		
Raffle	To hang		
Skill	To allow		
Instruction	To fill		
Aunt	To stand		
Grownup	To recognize		
Treasure	To wear		
Portrait	To belong		
Scum	To own		
Gap	To land		
Permission			
Stomach			
Shoulder			
Ribbon			
Worm			

Crow			
Dropping			
Bumblebee			

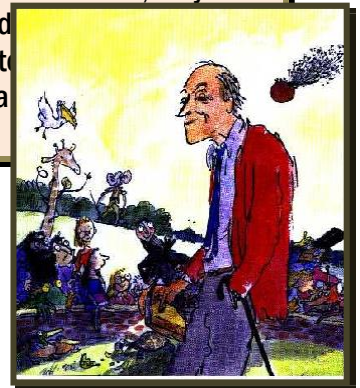
### 3. About the author:

**Roald Dahl** was born in Wales, in 1916. He was an unhappy schoolboy, so after graduating from school he decided to look for adventure. He first worked for the Shell company in East Africa, where he lived in the jungle, and then he joined the Royal Air Force, or RAF, as a pilot, when the Second World War broke out. He was injured while he was flying, so in 1942 he went to Washington, where he started his career as a writer.

In 1943 Dahl published *The Gremlins*, his first children's book, which was followed by many others. They were all very successful because he really connected with the children's interests. He later admitted he couldn't have written children's stories if he hadn't had children of his own. His books are based on bedtime stories he made up for his own children.

He also wrote books for adults. His adult books are stories that combine humour and a touch of cruelty. They are full of fantasy and imagination, usually with a shocking ending and deceptive intrigues. Nevertheless, Dahl recognised that the ideas for stories didn't just come out: he had to think hard to get them.

As for his family life, he married Patricia Neal, an actress, and they had five children. However, they were not happy. Patricia suffered a stroke but later recovered. Their marriage ended in divorce. Dahl died in Oxford in 1990. He was a generous man who always donated money to charity. He was awarded several important prizes. His secret for becoming a good writer is a lot of hard work.



#### ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)? CORRECT THE FALSE ONES.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a) Roald Dahl was born in America in 1916.                 | T / F |
| b) He was an unhappy schoolboy.                            | T / F |
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| d) In the Second World War he joined the army as a sailor. | T / F |
| e) His marriage with Patricia Neal ended in divorce.       | T / F |
| f) He wasn't a generous man.                               | T / F |

#### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- a) Where did Roald Dahl start his career as a writer?

**He started it in Washington.**

- b) How is his first children's book called?

**His first children's book is called *The Gremlins*.**

- c) How are his adult books' endings?

**The endings are usually shocking.**



d) How many children did he have?

He had 5 children.

e) When and where did he die?

He died in 1990 in Oxford.

4. Write the correct form (past tense) of the verb on the lines:

Matilda **was** a very intelligent young girl who **loved** reading books. She **taught** herself to read at the age of three. There **were** only cookbooks and magazines in the house. When she **was** four years old, she **went** to the library and **started** reading books for hours and days. She **read** books levelled for people older than her age. Her favourite author **was** Charles Dickens, and her favourite book **was** The Red Pony by John Steinbeck. She **had** the ability to calculate math problems with her brain and **did not need** a calculator. Her father **did not like** to read. He **told** her to watch television instead. Matilda's father **sold** cars. He **told** proudly about how he **cheated** customers. Matilda **found** this very rude and **played** a prank on her father every time he **did** something wrong.

There was one time when Matilda **to discovered** that she **had** supernatural powers. She **focused** on a glass with her eyes and the glass **tipped** over.

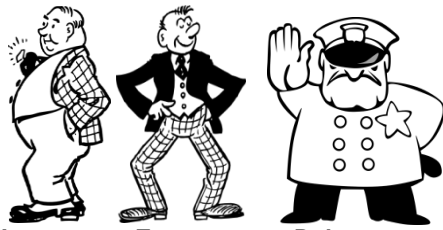
Only one person **understood** Matilda. It **was** Miss Honey. In the end she **helped** Matilda by inviting her to stay with her to have a better life with her.

5. Matilda's Crossword based on the book:



1. Name of the five-year-old girl who reads Dickens and Hemingway.
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10. Something that sticks two things together.
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12. Who is Miss Honey's aunt? Miss...
13. A document that states who should receive your possessions when you die.
14. Where Matilda's parents and brother are headed for.
15. Whom does Matilda stay with when her parents leave?
16. What do the children play on Miss Trunchbull?
17. What sticks to Mr. Wormwood's head?

6. Use the comparative or the superlative.



James

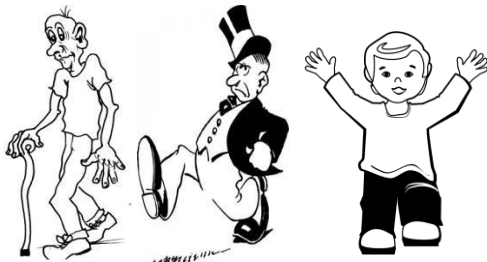
Tom

Robert

James is **FATTER** than Tom. (fat)

Tom is **SLIMMER** than Robert. (slim)

Robert is the **FATTEST**. (fat)



Oliver

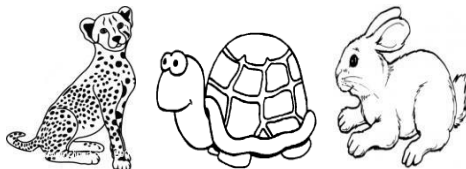
David

John

John is **YOUNGER** than David. (young)

Oliver is **OLDER** than David. (old)

John is the **YOUNGEST**. (young)



Leopard

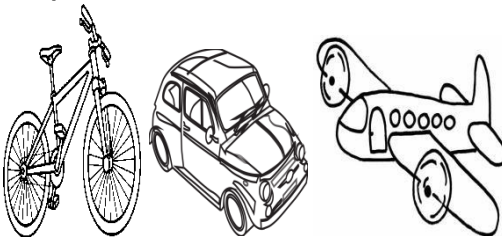
Turtle

Rabbit

The leopard is **FASTER** than the rabbit. (fast)

The turtle is **SLOWER** than the rabbit. (slow)

The leopard is the **FASTEST**. (fast)



Bicycle

Car

Plane

The bicycle is **LESS COMFORTABLE** than the car. (comfortable)

The plane is **MORE COMFORTABLE** than the car. (comfortable)

The plane is the **MOST COMFORTABLE**. (comfortable)



Sam

Tom

Max

Tom is **LESS ANGRY** than Max. (angry)

Sam is **ANGRIER** than Tom. (angry)

Sam is the **ANGRIEST**. (angry)



Football

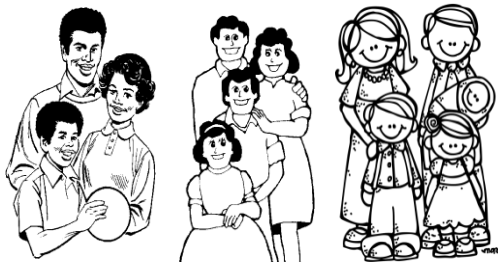
Tennis

Basketball

Tennis is **LESS POPULAR** than basketball. (popular)

Football is **MORE POPULAR** than Basketball. (popular)

Football is the **MOST POPULAR**. (popular)



David's family Ann's family George's family

Ann's family is **LARGER** than David's family. (large)  
 David's family is **SMALLER** than George's family. (small)  
 George's family is the **LARGEST**. (large)



Tree 1

Tree 2

Tree 3

Tree 1 is **SHORTER** than tree 2. (short)  
 Tree 2 is **TALLER** than tree 3. (tall)  
 Tree 1 is the **SHORTEST**. (short)

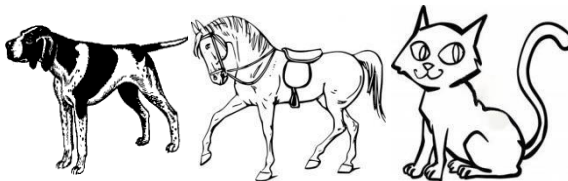


Sarah

Jane

Maria

Sarah is **LESS SAD** than Jane. (sad)  
 Maria is **SADDER** than Sarah. (sad)  
 Maria is the **SADDEST**. (sad)

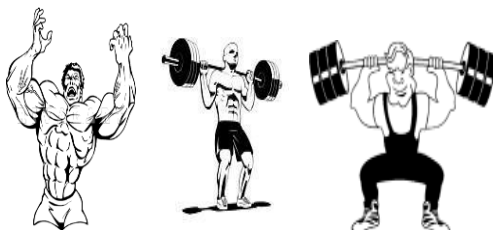


Dog

Horse

Cat

The dog is **MORE FRIENDLY** than the cat. (friendly)  
 The horse is **LESS FRIENDLY** than the cat. (friendly)  
 The dog is the **MOST FRIENDLY**. (friendly)

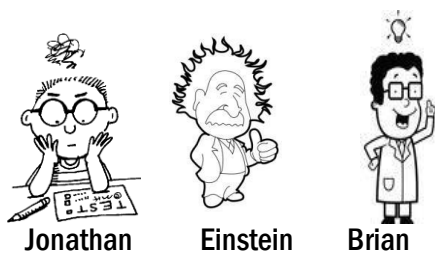


Bill

Kevin

Matthew

Kevin is **LESS STRONG** than Bill. (strong)  
 Matthew is **STRONGER** than Kevin. (weak)  
 Bill is the **STRONGEST**. (strong)



Jonathan

Einstein

Brian

Brian is **MORE INTELLIGENT** than Jonathan. (intelligent)  
 Jonathan is **LESS INTELLIGENT** than Einstein. (intelligent)  
 Einstein is the **MOST INTELLIGENT**. (intelligent)

## 7. Listening comprehension:

**Songs from the play:**

- Read the lyrics and underline the words you don't understand.
- Listen and follow the lyrics.
- Try to deduce the meaning of the words you don't understand from the context.
- Look up the words you still don't understand in the dictionary.
- Listen and sing each line from the song.
- Sing the whole song.

**Scene from the play:**

- Read the whole scene and underline the words you don't understand.
- Listen and follow it in the script.
- Try to deduce the meaning of the words you don't understand from the context.
- Look up the words you still don't understand in the dictionary.
- Listen and repeat each line from the script.
- Read the whole scene with a partner.

8. How would you describe Matilda? What do you like or dislike about her? (about 80 words)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**11. Have you done anything naughty recently? Or have you had a nightmarish experience at home or at school? Write about either a naughty or a nightmarish experience.**



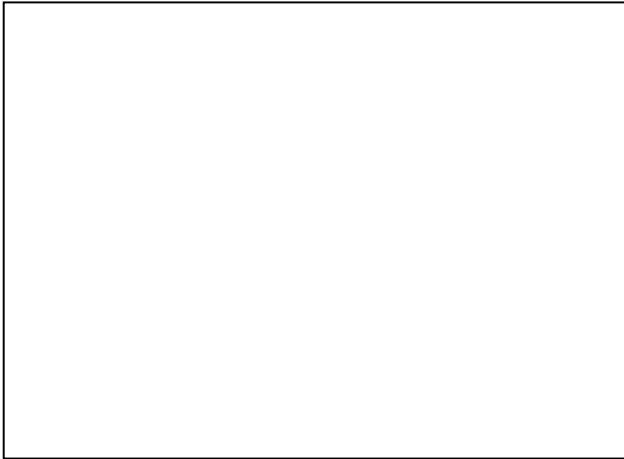
# DISCUSSION WITH THE ACTORS

After watching the play

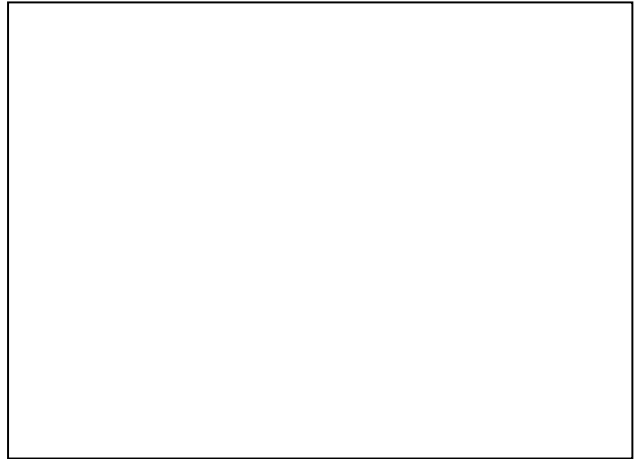
1. Draw the story using the following guidelines:

- 1) Matilda is born and their family isn't happy about it.
- 2) Matilda goes to the public library to get several books.
- 3) Matilda starts school.
- 4) Miss Trunchbull tries to discover who has got into her house.

1)



2)



3)



4)



2. Make a list of 10 points to show how The Performers Inc. theatre company adapted Matilda film to the stage:

I.E.:

The character of Miss Honey is played by a male actor; therefore, it is a male character called Mr. Honey.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

3. Write a paragraph describing Miss Trunchbull's life after ten years.

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4. Put the following conversation between Matilda, Michael and Harry in order:

Harry: Any packages come today? Where did all this come from?

Matilda: The library.

Harry: You've never set foot in a library. You're only four years old.

Matilda: Six and a half.

Michael: You're four.

Matilda: Six and a half.

Michael: If you were six and half you'd be in school already!

Matilda: I want to be in school. I told you, dad. I was supposed to start school in September. You wouldn't listen.

Harry: Get up! Get up! Dearest pie, how old is Matilda?

Zinnia: Four.

Matilda: I am six and a half, mommy.

Zinnia: Five then.

Matilda: I was six in August.

Michael: You're a liar.

Matilda: I want to go to school.

Harry: School! Out of the question. Who would be here to do the households chores? Now, go watch TV like a good kid.

Michael: You know, sometimes I think there is something wrong with this girl.

Harry: Tell me about it!