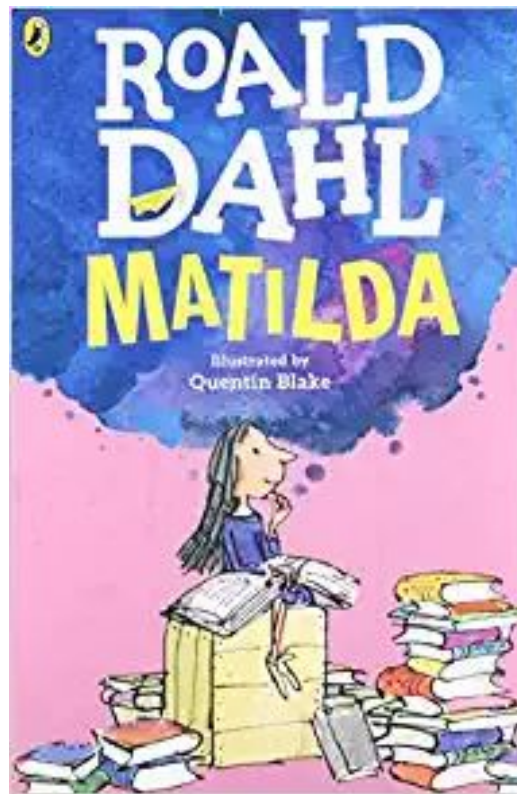


Matilda

by Roald Dahl



5th Grade Summer Reading Packet

Pre-Reading: **About Roald Dahl**

Roald Dahl was born in 1916 in Cardiff, Wales. He died in 1990 at the age of 74 of a rare blood disease.



Roald Dahl is famous for writing children's books and rhymes. Millions of his books have been sold around the world.

Some of Roald Dahl's most popular children's books are: *George's Marvellous Medicine*, *The BFG* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Many of Roald Dahl's stories have been made into films, such as *Matilda* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Roald Dahl wrote his stories in an armchair in his garden shed. He always wrote on yellow paper with a sharp yellow pencil. Roald Dahl is famous for saying that all a writer needs is 'what is in his head, a pencil and some paper'.



Roald Dahl's parents were Norwegian. He was only four years old when his father, Harald, died. Roald was raised by his mother, Sofie Dahl. He was happy at home but he was sent away to boarding school where he was very unhappy. When he left school, Roald went to Africa. He worked for a time for Shell, the oil company.

Later, during the Second World War, Roald joined the air force and became a pilot. He was involved in a serious crash which left him with a permanent limp as he walked. In 1942, he wrote about his experiences. This was to become his first published work.

Roald Dahl won many awards for his children's stories. He won the Children's Book Award in 1983 for *The BFG*. In the same year, Roald also won the Whitbread Award for *The Witches*. Later, in 1989, a year before he died, he won the Children's Book Award for his book *Matilda*.

There is a museum called the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Buckinghamshire. Lots of children and adults go there every year to find out more about Roald Dahl and his amazing stories.



Research: What other books has Roald Dahl wrote?

While Reading: **Journal Responses**

Directions: While reading, answer the journal questions on a separate sheet of paper. Your answers should be in complete sentences and written neatly.

Chapters 1-3

1. What can Matilda do at these ages: 1 1/2; 3; and 4?
2. Why does Mrs. Phelps watch Matilda with surprise and excitement?
3. Matilda's father doesn't want her to read books. Why not?
4. Why can't Mr Wormwood take his hat off?
5. What does Mr Wormwood do to Matilda's library book?

Chapters 4-6

1. Who do you think is worse, Mr Wormwood or Miss Trunchbull?
Explain your reasons.
2. Do you think there really are teachers like Miss Trunchbull? Explain your reasons.
3. Do you think there really are parents like the Wormwoods? Explain your reasons.

Chapters 7-9

In four words, describe each of these people:

- Matilda
- Mr. Wormwood
- Miss Trunchbull
- Miss Honey

Post Reading: **Creative Activity**

Directions: Decide on an animal that each of the four main characters are similar to. You must give reasons for your choice in complete sentences.

Matilda: _____

Mr. Wormwood: _____

Miss Trunchbull: _____

Miss Honey: _____
