

Matilda



"'I'm wondering what to read next,' Matilda said.
'I've finished all the children's books.'"

A short play inspired by the story by Roald Dahl

Cast List

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Narrator 4

Matilda

Harry Wormwood

Zinnia Wormwood

Miss Trunchbull

Lavendar

Hortensia

Samantha

Amanda

Tony

Jim

Miss Honey

School Children

Scene 1: Matilda Was Born

- Narrator 1: Everyone is born, but not everyone is born the same.
- Narrator 2: Some will grow to be butchers, or bakers or candlestick makers.
- Narrator 3: One way or another, though, every human being is unique, for better or for worse.
- Narrator 4: Most Parents believe their children are the most beautiful creatures ever to grace the planet. Others take a less emotional approach.
- Narrator 5: A mother and a father...
- Narrator 6: Too busy in their lives.

Family scene

- Narrator 1: Harry and Zinnia Wormwood lived in a very nice neighbourhood in a very nice house, but they were not really very nice people.
- Narrator 2: The wormwoods were so wrapped up in their own silly lives, that they barely noticed they had a daughter.
- Narrator 3: Had they paid attention to her at all, they would have realized she was a rather extraordinary child.
- Narrator 4: They called their daughter....
- Narrator 1-6: Matilda!

Play Miracle

Scene 2: The Reader Of Books

Narrator 1: By the time she was four, Matilda had read every magazine in the house.

Narrator 2: One night she got up her courage and asked her father for something she desperately wanted.

Harry: A book? What do you want a book for?

Matilda: To read.

Harry: To read? Why would you want to read when you've got the television set sitting right in front of you?

There's nothing you can get from a book that you can't get from a television faster.

Narrator 3: Matilda already knew that she was somewhat different from her family.

Narrator 4: She saw that whatever she needed in this world...

Narrator 5 and 6: She would have to get herself.

Play Loud

Scene 3: Matilda Goes to School

Narrator 1: Matilda had always wanted to go to school, because she loved to learn.

Narrator 2: She tried to imagine what her new school would be like. She pictured a lovely building surrounded by trees, and flowers and swings.

Narrator 3: Well, there was a building.....

Narrator 4: And children....

Narrator 1: So regardless of what Crunchem Hall looked like, she was happy to be there.

Narrator 5: After all, any school was better than no school at all?

Narrator 6: Right?

Children mingling around in the playground

T-Bull: You, detention. You're too small. Grow up quicker. Heads up. Shoulders back. Stomachs in. Stand up straight.

Lavender: Hey!

Matilda: Sorry.

Children enter school

Lavender: That's okay. It's much better than being out there.

Matilda: Is that my teacher?

Lavender: No. That's the principle, Miss Trunchbull.

Matilda: You've got to be kidding!

Hortensia: You squirts better skedaddle. I'm not kidding.

Matilda: I'm Matilda.

Lavender: Lavender.

Hortensia: I'm Hortensia.

Matilda: She doesn't really hit children with that riding crop, does she?

Hortensia: No. It's mostly for scare. What she does is worse. Like yesterday, in the second grade, the Trunchbull makes a weekly visit to every classroom, to show the teachers a thing or two about handling kids.

Samantha: Julius ate two M&Ms during her lesson.

Matilda: And she caught him?

Samantha: Of course!

Matilda: Was Julius okay?

Samantha: After being thrown out the window, of course, he wasn't okay. He lived, if that's what you mean.

Lavender: The Trunchbull used to be in the Olympics: Shot put, javelin, hammer throw. The hammer throw was her specialty.

Matilda: So she does this all the time?

Samantha: Better than being put in "The Choke".

Matilda: The Choke?

Freeze frame, as Narrators explain the Choke

Narrator 1: The Choke was a tall, narrow, hole in a wall behind a door.

Narrator 2: The Trunchbull, would make the children stand in there-between the drippy pipes.

Narrator 3: Even the walls were covered in broken glass.

Narrator 4: With nails sticking out!

Narrator 5: The choke was a frightening place.

Narrator 6: And no child wanted to be put...in there!

Scene starts again

Matilda: She puts kids in there?

Hortensia: I've been in there twice. Sometimes she leaves you in there all day.

Matilda: Didn't you tell your parents?

Hortensia: They didn't believe me. I mean, would your parents believe it?!?

T-Bull: Sixty lines - "I must obey Miss Trunchbull." Out of my way!

Matilda: Here she comes.

T-Bull: Ah. Fresh meat! Amanda Thripp. What are those?!?

Amanda: What's what, Miss Trunchbull?

T-Bull: Hanging down by your ears.

Amanda: You mean my pigtails?

T-Bull: Are you a pig, Amanda?!?

Amanda: No, Miss Trunchbull.

T-Bull: Do I allow pigs in my school?

Amanda: My mommy thinks they're sweet.

T-Bull: Your mommy is a TWIT. You'll chop those off before school tomorrow or I'll....

Amanda: But, but I don't

T-Bull: Did you say, "But"?

Hortensia: Hammerthrow.....

Lavender: Definitely.

T-Bull: I'll give you, "But"!

Freeze Frame as the Narrators explain the next sight

Narrator 1: At that point, Miss Trunchbull takes hold of Amanda's pig tails.

Narrator 2: Spins her around.

Narrator 3: Excellent release.

Narrator 4: Great height.

Narrator 5: As poor Amanda Thripp...

Narrator 6: Flies through the air!

Scene starts up again

Bruce: Do you think she's going to make the fence?

Jim: It's going to be a close one!

T-Bull: Quiet! Get to class before I throw you all in the Chokey.

Matilda: Lavender, what's my teacher like?

Play Entr'acte

Scene 4: School

Narrator 6: The children rush into their class.

Narrator 5: To be met by...

Narrator 1: Matilda's teacher...

Narrator 2: Miss Honey.

Narrator 3: She was one of those remarkable people who appreciates every single child...

Narrator 4: For who he or she is.

Classroom

Amanda: I scooped these up for you, Miss Honey.

Miss Honey: How lovely. Thank you, Amanda. Okay. Listen up everyone. We have a new student with us today. This is Matilda Wormwood. Now, you all remember how scary your first days at school were, so I'd like you to be especially nice to Matilda and make her feel welcome.

Freeze frame

Narrator 1: Miss Honey was a wonderful teacher, and a friend to everyone.

Narrator 2: But her life was not as simple and beautiful as it seemed.

Narrator 3: Miss Honey had a deep, dark secret.

Narrator 6: A deep, dark secret.

Narrator 4: And though it caused her great pain, she didn't let it interfere with her teaching.

Scene starts again

Honey: Well, Matilda. You've come on a very good day, because we're going to review everything we've learned so far. Now, it's alright if you don't know understand any of this, because you're brand new, but if you do know an answer, just raise your hand. Okay, now we've been working on our two-times tables. Would anyone like to demonstrate? Okay. Let's do some together. Two times four is? Two times six is? Two times nine is? Excellent. You've been practicing. Pretty soon you'll be able to do any multiplication, whether it's two times 7 Very good. Or 13 times 379.

Matilda: Four thousand, nine hundred, and twenty-seven.

Honey: I beg your pardon?!?

Matilda: I think that's the answer. 13 times 379. Four nine two seven.

Honey: It is! Matilda, you know how to multiply big numbers?

Lavender: WOW!

Matilda: I read this book last year in mathematics at the library.

Honey: You like to read?!?

Matilda: Yes. I love to read.

Honey: What do you like to read?

Matilda: Everything. But lately I've been reading Darles Chickens. I mean Charles Dickens. I could read him every day.

Honey: So could I. All right, everyone. Take out your workbooks.

Play When I Grow Up

Scene 5

Narrator 1: Now Matilda had started school.

Narrator 2: The FBI were watching her father.

Narrator 3: The Trunchbull was terrorizing her school.

Narrator 4: It was a rare and happy moment when Matilda could just play with her friends.

Narrator 5: Carefree and happy.

Narrator 1: What lay ahead for her, no-one could have predicted.

Narrator 2: Who knew how the story would unfold?

Narrator 3: But don't worry, all good stories, have a happy ending.

Narrator 4: And Matilda's story is no exception.