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Matilda Comprehension Questions By Chapter

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Unlocking the Magic of Roald Dahl: A Complete Guide to Matilda Comprehension Questions By Chapter

Roald Dahl's *Matilda* is a beloved classic that has captivated young readers and adults alike for decades. The story of a brilliant, book-loving little girl who overcomes neglectful parents and a tyrannical headmistress is rich with themes of justice, resilience, the power of knowledge, and the importance of kindness. For educators, book club leaders, and homeschooling parents, crafting the right **Matilda comprehension questions by chapter**is essential for deepening readers' engagement and understanding. This guide provides a comprehensive, chapter-by-chapter breakdown of thought-provoking questions that encourage critical thinking, vocabulary building, and personal connection to the text.

Whether you are guiding a classroom discussion or reading one-on-one with a child, these questions move beyond simple recall. They invite readers to analyze character motivations, predict plot developments, and connect the story's timeless lessons to their own lives. Let's dive into each chapter, exploring the key events and themes that make *Matilda* a masterpiece of children's literature.

Why Use Chapter-by-Chapter Comprehension Questions for Matilda?

Reading a novel in its entirety is a wonderful experience, but pausing to reflect chapter by chapter allows readers to absorb details they might otherwise miss. **Matilda comprehension questions by chapter**serve several valuable purposes:

- Build Reading Comprehension: They help readers track the plot, understand cause and effect, and identify the main ideas in each section.
- Encourage Critical Thinking: Questions that ask "why" and "how" push readers to analyze characters' choices and the author's craft.
- Expand Vocabulary: Dahl uses wonderfully inventive language. Targeted questions can highlight new words and encourage their use.
- Foster Empathy: By putting themselves in Matilda's shoes, readers explore emotions like frustration, courage, and joy.
- Deepen Engagement: A thoughtful question can turn a passive reading session into an active conversation.

The following sections are structured to be used as a flexible resource. Feel free to pick and choose questions that best suit your reader's age and ability level.

Chapters 1–3: The Reader of Books, Mr. Wormwood, and The Hat and The

Superglue

The opening chapters introduce us to Matilda's world—a world where her parents value television over books and her father is a dishonest car salesman. Matilda's internal resourcefulness is immediately on display.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 1–3

1. Why does Matilda's father think it is stupid to read books? What does this tell you about his character?
2. Describe how Matilda teaches herself to read. What does this show about her personality?
3. What is the "Great Miss Honey" like, based on how Matilda first sees her? How does she differ from Matilda's parents?
4. Explain the trick Matilda plays on her father with the hat and the superglue. Was it fair? Why or why not?
5. Why does Matilda decide to play tricks on her parents? Do you think she is justified?

Discussion Tip: Ask readers if they have ever felt that an adult didn't understand them. How did Matilda handle that feeling? Encourage them to think about how Matilda uses her intelligence to solve problems—even if her methods are mischievous.

Chapters 4–6: The Ghost, Arithmetic, and The Platinum-Blond Man

As Matilda's tricks continue, Dahl deepens our understanding of the Wormwood family dynamic. We also see the first spark of Matilda's remarkable mind at school.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 4–6

1. Describe the trick involving the ghost. Why does Matilda choose this particular prank?
2. How does Mr. Wormwood react when Matilda shows she can do complex arithmetic in her head? Why does he react this way?
3. What does the arrival of the "platinum-blond man" (the car buyer) reveal about Mr. Wormwood's business ethics?
4. Why do you think Matilda feels a sense of triumph after her trick on her father, even though she knows it is wrong?

Vocabulary Spotlight: Point out words like "swindle," "suspicious," and "triumph." Ask readers to use each word in a sentence related to the story.

Chapters 7–9: Miss Honey, The Trunchbull, and The Parents

The narrative shifts to school, introducing the two most important adult figures in Matilda's life: the gentle Miss Honey and the terrifying Miss Trunchbull. The contrast between them is stark and central to the story's tension.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 7–9

1. What makes Miss Honey a good teacher? Provide at least two specific examples from the text.
2. List three words to describe Miss Trunchbull. Use evidence from the book to support your choices.
3. Why does Miss Trunchbull hate children? How does she treat them differently from adults?
4. How does Matilda feel about her parents' behavior when they visit the school? What does she wish they would do?

Activity Idea: Create a Venn diagram comparing Miss Honey and Miss Trunchbull. This visual exercise helps readers organize their thoughts about character traits.

Chapters 10–12: Throwing the Hammer, Bruce Bogtrotter and The Cake, and Lavender

These chapters are packed with action and humor. The infamous cake scene and Matilda's growing friendship

with Lavender add depth to the story.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 10–12

1. Describe the hammer-throwing event. What does Miss Trunchbull's skill reveal about her past and her personality?
2. Why is the scene with Bruce Bogtrotter and the cake so memorable? What does Miss Trunchbull's punishment say about her sense of justice?
3. How does Lavender plan to get back at Miss Trunchbull? Is her plan clever or dangerous? Explain.
4. What does Matilda think of Lavender's plan? How do you know?

Connecting to Life: Ask readers if they have ever seen someone being treated unfairly. What did they do? What could they have done? Bruce's defiance is a powerful moment—discuss why it feels so satisfying.

Chapters 13–16: The Weekly Test, The First Miracle, The Second Miracle, and Miss Honey's Cottage

This is the turning point of the novel. Matilda discovers her extraordinary power, and the relationship with Miss Honey deepens.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 13–16

1. What is "the first miracle" that Matilda performs? How does she react to it?
2. During the weekly test, how does Matilda use her power? Why does she choose to target Miss Trunchbull's glass of water?
3. Describe Miss Honey's cottage. Why is it so surprising to Matilda? What does the cottage reveal about Miss Honey's life?
4. Why does Miss Honey tell Matilda her own story? What do they have in common?

Analysis Question: Some readers believe Matilda's powers are a metaphor for the strength that comes from reading and learning. Do you agree or disagree? Use the text to support your answer.

Chapters 17–20: Miss Honey's Story, The Names, The Practice, and The Third Miracle

The mystery of Miss Honey's past is revealed, and Matilda begins to plan her most ambitious act of defiance.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 17–20

1. Summarize Miss Honey's story in your own words. How did Miss Trunchbull take everything from her?
2. Why does Matilda feel responsible for helping Miss Honey? What does this say about Matilda's character?
3. Describe Matilda's practice sessions. What does she learn about her power?
4. What is "the third miracle"? Why is it the most dangerous thing Matilda has attempted?

Prediction Question: Before reading the next chapter, ask readers to predict what will happen during Matilda's big performance. Will she succeed? What might go wrong?

Chapters 21–23: The Third Miracle (Continued), The Rescue, and The New Home

The climax builds as Matilda executes her plan, and the story moves toward a satisfying resolution for nearly every character.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 21–23

1. Walk through the steps Matilda takes to make the chalk write by itself. What challenges does she face?

2. How does Miss Trunchbull react to the “ghost” message? Is her reaction believable? Why or why not?
3. What happens to Miss Trunchbull at the end of the story? Is it a fitting end for her? Explain.
4. Why does Matilda’s power begin to fade? What does Miss Honey suggest is the reason?

Chapters 24–27: The Plan, The Telephone, and The End

The Wormwood family’s dramatic escape to Spain and Matilda’s new life with Miss Honey bring the novel to a close.

Comprehension Questions for Chapters 24–27

1. Why do Matilda’s parents decide to move to Spain so suddenly? How does Matilda feel about this?
2. What is the significance of Matilda’s father letting her stay? Why does he agree so easily?
3. Describe the final scene between Matilda and Miss Honey. How do both characters feel?
4. Do you think the ending of the story is satisfying? Would you change anything? Why or why not?

Final Reflection: Ask readers to imagine they are Matilda. Write a short diary entry about the events of the last few chapters. How does it feel to be free from the Wormwoods and the Trunchbull? What are you most excited about with Miss Honey?

Beyond Simple Recall: Deeper Thematic Questions for Matilda

After completing the chapter-by-chapter questions, consider exploring broader themes that run throughout the book. These **Matilda comprehension questions by chapter** can also be adapted into larger discussions:

- The Power of Reading: How does reading shape Matilda’s identity and her ability to cope with her difficult home life?
- Justice and Fairness: Is Matilda’s revenge against her parents and Miss Trunchbull justified? What other options did she have?
- The Role of Adults: Compare the adults in the story: the Wormwoods, Miss Honey, Miss Trunchbull, and even the librarian Mrs. Phelps. What makes a good adult? What makes a bad one?
- Resilience and Inner Strength: Matilda is small and powerless in many ways, yet she triumphs. Where does her real strength come from?
- The Importance of Kindness: Miss Honey is the first adult to truly see Matilda. How does kindness change Matilda’s life?

Tips for Using These Questions

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