# MATILDA
# NOVEL STUDY

Chapters 1-21 · Grades 3-5




21 CHAPTERS

36 PAGES

Bright Path Sped

# Matilda Novel Study: Start Here

## What's inside (36 pages)



- **12 words to know** (page 4) and word work at 3 levels (pages 5-7)
- **A character page** (8) and **chapter questions** for all 21 chapters in 12 sets of 3 (pages 9-14)
- **5 daily skills**: context clues, inference, point of view, cause and effect, summarizing (pages 15-20) and a **plot mountain** (page 21)
- **Story order**, cut and glue at 2 levels, then a retell in your own words (pages 22-25) and **a book-stack craft** (26-27)
- **End-of-book test** (28-29), **answer key** (30-33), class data page, family letter, credits



## Use it with the book

This companion is made for use with the novel *Matilda*. The book is not included: students read their own copy. Not affiliated with the author or publisher; for use with the book. Every question, word meaning, passage and page here is our own writing, and the pictures are not from the book.

## How to run it

- **Before you read.** Read the words to know together (page 4). Do word work at each child's level (pages 5-7).
- **Chapter by chapter.** After each chapter (or short run of chapters), the child answers that set's 3 questions. The questions ask about what happens in this book, in our own words. The reading plan on page 3 lists the 12 sets, what each is about and a skill of the day.
- **Skill days.** Each skill page teaches on a short passage that is not from the book, then asks the child to find the same skill in the book.
- **Story order.** Cut the six pieces and glue them in order (page 22-24), or write the story in your own words (page 25).
- **Finish.** Build the book stack, then give the end-of-book test (pages 28-29).

## Three levels, marked with shapes

● **Starting** (circle the word; the faint pictures show where each piece goes) ■ **Building** (fill in from a word bank; numbered boxes) ▲ **Ready for more** (write your own sentences and your own retelling). Levels use a shape, not a number, so children are not comparing papers.

## Scoring, answers and prep

Closed items (word work, test parts 1 and 2, skill practice) have one right answer in the key. Chapter questions, character work and writing say **answers will vary**: score them 2, 1 or 0 with the notes on page 33. Print on paper; use card stock for the two cutting pages if you like. You need scissors, glue sticks and crayons.

PREVIEW

My name _____

## Read the words. Say each one out loud.

### 1 GIFTED
having a special talent or a very quick mind

*The gifted pianist learned the song in one day.*

### 2 NEGLECT
to fail to care for someone or give them attention

*Do not neglect your garden, or the plants will dry up.*

### 3 LIBRARIAN
a person who works in a library and helps people find books

*The librarian showed us where the maps are.*

### 4 HEADMISTRESS
the woman in charge of a school

*The headmistress welcomed us on the first day.*

### 5 STRICT
making people follow the rules very carefully

*Our coach is strict about being on time.*

### 6 MISCHIEF
playful behavior that gets people into small trouble

*The puppy's mischief left a sock in every room.*

### 7 BRILLIANT
extremely smart or clever

*Her brilliant idea fixed the problem at once.*

### 8 TERRIFIED
very, very scared

*The little boy was terrified of the thunder.*

### 9 SCHEME
a clever plan, often a secret one

*The twins made a scheme to surprise their dad.*

### 10 COURAGE
the strength to do something even when you are afraid

*It took courage to speak up in front of everyone.*

### 11 BULLY
a person who is mean to others to scare or hurt them

*A bully is not a true friend.*

### 12 UNFAIR
not right or equal for everyone

*It is unfair when one child gets all the turns.*

**My own words:** _____ _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

**Circle the word that fits.**

1. The _____ helped me find a book about frogs.

   **librarian** **bully**

2. Our teacher is _____, so we line up quietly.

   **strict** **unfair**

3. The girl was _____ when she heard the loud crash.

   **gifted** **terrified**

4. It takes _____ to try something new and scary.

   **courage** **mischief**

5. She made a _____ to build a treehouse by summer.

   **scheme** **neglect**

PREVIEW

My name _____ ▲

**Write a sentence with each word.**

**GIFTED** means having a special talent or a very quick mind.

**COURAGE** means the strength to do something even when you are afraid.

**SCHEME** means a clever plan, often a secret one.

**TERRIFIED** means very, very scared.

**A word from my book:** _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

**Read the chapter. Write your answers.**

## CHAPTERS 1-2

Skill: Character

Matilda and her family

1. What is Matilda like? Write two words that describe her and a detail that shows each one.

2. How do Matilda's parents treat her? Give one example.

3. Why do you think Matilda loves to read? What might books give her?

## CHAPTERS 3-4

Skill: Inference

Matilda and her father

1. How does Matilda's father act toward her? What clues show it?

2. Matilda is clever, and she finds ways to answer unfair treatment. Tell one thing she does and what it shows about her.

3. Would you have handled it the same way? Why or why not?

PREVIEW

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My name _____

**Read the chapter. Write your answers.**

# CHAPTERS 8-9

Skill: Cause and effect

Miss Trunchbull

1. Who is Miss Trunchbull? How do the children act when she is near?

2. Name one thing Miss Trunchbull does. Tell what happens because of it.

3. Is Miss Trunchbull a hero or a villain? Give a reason.

# CHAPTERS 10-11

Skill: Summarizing

Life at Crunchem Hall

1. Write the three most important things that have happened so far.

2. How are the children treated at Crunchem Hall? Give two details.

3. What do you want to find out in the rest of the book?

PREVIEW

My name _____

**Read the chapter. Write your answers.**

# CHAPTERS 16-17

Skill: Cause and effect

Miss Honey's story

1. What problem does Miss Honey have? Tell about it.

2. Finish this sentence with something from the chapters: Because _____, Miss Honey _____.

3. How does Matilda feel when she learns Miss Honey's story? How do you know?

# CHAPTERS 18-19

Skill: Point of view

Matilda makes a plan

1. Does the book tell the story with I (a character telling it) or with he, she and they (someone outside the story)? How do you know?

2. What does Matilda decide to do? Why does she decide that?

3. How would this part be different if Miss Honey told it?

PREVIEW

# My name _____

## Use the clue words to find each meaning.

**Remember:** Clue words near a hard word help you figure out what it means. Underline them.

1. Maya was **brilliant**. She read hard books, added big numbers in her head and learned new things faster than anyone in her class.

   **Clue words:** _____

   **brilliant means:** _____

2. The headmistress was **strict**. She had a rule for everything, and any child who broke one was in trouble right away.

   **Clue words:** _____

   **strict means:** _____

3. The children were **terrified** of the new principal. They went pale and froze whenever her heavy footsteps came down the hall.

   **Clue words:** _____

   **terrified means:** _____

### IN MY BOOK

**A hard word I found:** _____

**Clue words:** _____

**I think it means:** _____

PREVIEW

# My name _____

## Read the scene. Tell how each person feels.

**Remember:** Point of view is how a character sees what is happening. Two people can feel different about the same thing.

Maya came home with a tall stack of library books. Her father frowned at them and said she should watch TV instead. Maya thought the books were the best part of her day.

### MAYA FEELS

_____

**because**

_____

_____

### HER FATHER FEELS

_____

**because**

_____

_____

**Who tells my book? Circle one.**

a character, using **I**

someone outside the story, using **he, she, they**

### IN MY BOOK

**Pick two characters. How does each feel about the same thing?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Draw it. Then write about it.

## BEGINNING

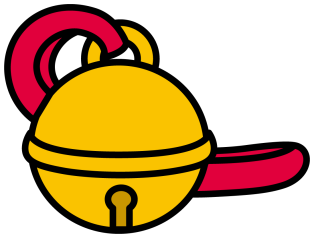
## MIDDLE

## END

The big idea: _____

PREVIEW

## Cut out the six pieces. Mix them up.



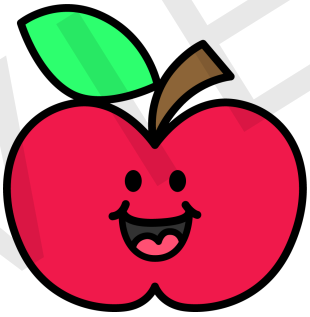
Miss Trunchbull, the headmistress, scares the children.



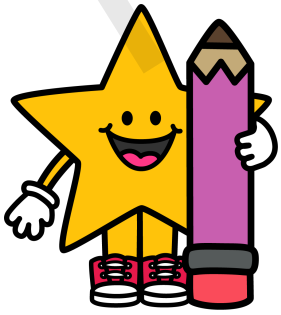
Matilda reads books at the library.



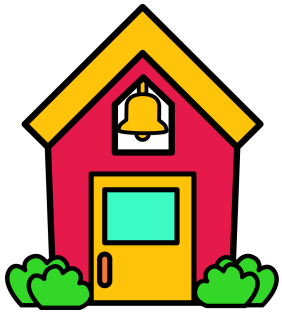
Miss Trunchbull leaves, and Matilda is happy with Miss Honey.



Matilda meets her kind teacher, Miss Honey.



Matilda finds out she can move things with her mind.



Matilda starts school at Crunchem Hall.

Next: glue them in order on page 23 or 24.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Glue the pieces in order, 1 to 6.

1

2

3

4

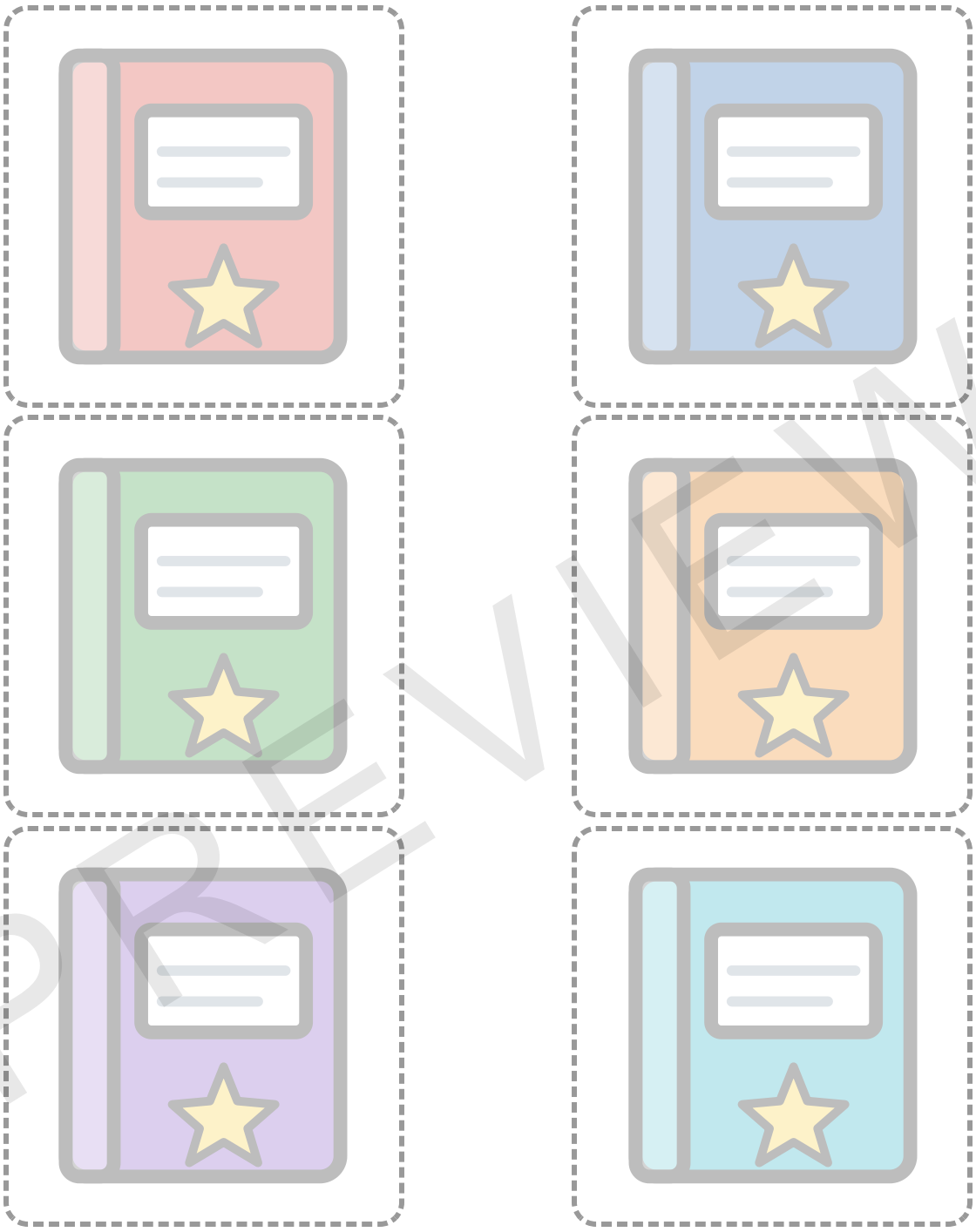
5

6

PREVIEW

My name _____

Glue each book on its twin.



My favorite book is _____

PREVIEW

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# My name _____

## Part 1. Circle the best answer.

1. Who is the main character of the book?

A Miss Honey | B Matilda Wormwood | C Lavender

2. Where does Matilda go to read her books?

A the library | B a bakery | C a farm

3. Who is Matilda's kind teacher?

A Miss Trunchbull | B Mrs. Phelps | C Miss Honey

4. Who is the cruel headmistress of Crunchem Hall?

A Miss Trunchbull | B Miss Honey | C Mrs. Phelps

5. Who is the librarian who helps Matilda?

A Miss Trunchbull | B Mrs. Phelps | C Lavender

6. What special power does Matilda find she has?

A She can fly. | B She can move things with her mind. | C She can talk to animals.

7. Which of these happens FIRST?

A Matilda goes to live with Miss Honey | B Matilda moves things with her mind | C Matilda reads at the library

8. Which of these happens LAST?

A Matilda reads at the library | B Matilda starts school | C Matilda goes to live with Miss Honey

9. The children were terrified of the headmistress and froze when she came in. Terrified means:

A very scared | B very sleepy | C very proud

10. Maya's father turned up the TV when she held out a book. What can you infer?

A He does not care about her books. | B He loves reading. | C He is hungry.

PREVIEW

# Answer Key: Words and Story Order

## Word work, starting (page 5)

1. librarian
2. strict
3. terrified
4. courage
5. scheme

## Word work, building (page 6)

1. headmistress
2. bully
3. mischief
4. brilliant
5. unfair
6. neglect

Left over: gifted, courage.

## Word work, ready for more (page 7)

Answers will vary. Score each sentence 2 (uses the word the right way and shows what it means), 1 (uses the word, but the sentence does not show its meaning) or 0. Check the child's own word from the book against a dictionary.

## Words to know (page 4)

The meanings printed on the page are the answer key for any word you quiz orally. The words are suggestions for a story about a girl, a library and a school; add or swap words from your own copy of the book.

## Story order (pages 22-25)

1. Matilda reads books at the library.
2. Matilda starts school at Crunchem Hall.
3. Matilda meets her kind teacher, Miss Honey.
4. Miss Trunchbull, the headmistress, scares the children.
5. Matilda finds out she can move things with her mind.
6. Miss Trunchbull leaves, and Matilda is happy with Miss Honey.

The starting level (page 23) has a faint picture in each box to match; the building level (page 24) has numbered boxes only. On page 25, answers will vary: look for the six events in order, told in the child's own words (First, Next, Then, After that, Later, Last).

## Plot mountain (page 21)

| Part | A good answer includes (answers will vary) |
|---|---|
| Beginning | Matilda, her family, and the library; later Crunchem Hall. |
| Rising action | Her parents ignore her; Miss Trunchbull is cruel at school; Matilda finds her power. |
| Climax | The showdown with Miss Trunchbull (chapter 20). |
| Falling action | Miss Trunchbull leaves; things calm down. |
| Ending | Matilda is safe and happy with Miss Honey. |

PREVIEW

# Answer Key: End-of-Book Test

## Part 1: circle the best answer (10 points)

| | |
|---|---|
| **1** | B. Matilda Wormwood |
| **2** | A. the library |
| **3** | C. Miss Honey |
| **4** | A. Miss Trunchbull |
| **5** | B. Mrs. Phelps |
| **6** | B. She can move things with her mind. |
| **7** | C. Matilda reads at the library |
| **8** | C. Matilda goes to live with Miss Honey |
| **9** | A. very scared |
| **10** | A. He does not care about her books. |

## Part 2: match (5 points)

| Word | Letter |
|---|---|
| **gifted** | B |
| **librarian** | D |
| **mischief** | E |
| **courage** | A |
| **headmistress** | C |

One point for each right letter.

## Part 3: written answers (9 points)

Answers will vary. Score each of the three answers 0 to 3:

| Score | What the answer shows |
|---|---|
| 3 | Answers every part of the question, uses a detail from the book and makes sense. |
| 2 | Answers the question, but the detail is thin or missing. |
| 1 | Partly answers, or the book detail is wrong. |
| 0 | No answer, or it has nothing to do with the question. |

**Question 1 (character):** a real character, a describing word and one example. **Question 2 (cause and effect):** a because-sentence with a true cause and effect from the book. **Question 3 (summary):** beginning, middle and end in 3 or 4 sentences, no tiny details.

## Total: 24 points

Parts 1 and 2 add up to 15 points and Part 3 to 9. Scores are for your own records; use your class's grading scale. Score the written answers with the table above; for any opinion answer, a reasonable one with a reason from the book earns credit (see also page 33).

PREVIEW

# Who Did What: Novel Study

One row per child. Mark each part done, the level shape used, and the test score.

Class: _____ Book started: _____ Teacher: _____

| Student | Word work (level) | Sets 1-6 | Sets 7-12 | Skill pages | Story order (level) | Craft | Test (of 24) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
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Level shapes: ● starting ■ building ▲ ready for more. The test is 24 points: 10 circle, 5 match, 9 written (page 32).

## Chapter check

Mark the chapters each child has finished (the book has 21; boxes follow the 12 question sets):

| 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7 | 8-9 | 10-11 | 12-13 | 14-15 | 16-17 | 18-19 | 20 | 21 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

Words to reteach: _____

Next we will: _____

PREVIEW