

## **Matilda**

**Author: Roald Dahl**

**Reviewed by: Keertana Sripathi, 15**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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*Matilda* by Roald Dahl is a novel that has been given the title of “The World’s No. 1 Storyteller”. Matilda is a young girl who lives in a family where knowledge and intellect is overlooked upon with T.V. and money as the top. She lives with an unscrupulous and crooked father, Mr. Wormwood, who sells second hand cars to customers who believe they are brand new.

She lives with a conceited and stuck-up mother, Mrs. Wormwood, who either goes to play bingo with her friends, watch T.V., or worry about her beauty. And lastly Michael, her spoiled brother, who is the apple of their parents’ eye. Matilda, from a very young age, finds interest and a friend in books of all sorts. Her family frowns upon this and discourages this but Matilda reads on nevertheless. She walks by herself to the library and reads all the books given to her, fascinating the kind librarian assisting her. Matilda, at the age of five and a half, starts school whose headmistress is very strict and short-tempered. However, Matilda’s primary school teacher, Miss Honey, is very sweet and loving towards all of her students. Upon recognizing Matilda as nothing short of a child prodigy, she requests Miss Trunchbull the headmistress to move Matilda up a few grades where she could learn material that she has not learned yet. This request gets declined and Matilda stays where she is. She is very happy nevertheless to be in an environment where she is loved and encouraged to learn more and more. Matilda gains magical powers where

she can move objects with her eyes, through which she teaches lessons to her parents for being so ignorant. With this power, she drives Miss Trunchbull out of the school deranged and insane. Her parents, who decide to run away from the country with Michael from the police who have found out about Mr. Wormwood's illegal and corrupt ways, tell Matilda to pack and come with them, who in return refuses to leave her school and beloved teacher. Matilda then suggests to her parents to be adopted by Miss Honey, who sadly sign the adoption papers and leave off to flee the country. Matilda, finally living in a happy family, has a true happy ending.

I loved Dahl's comical and whimsical tone incorporated into *Matilda*. It is incredibly fun and refreshing to read a story where one can simply escape from the realms of reality into the world of fantasy and imagination. This novel strongly encourages thirst for knowledge and reading books. I enjoyed Dahl's compelling magic cast upon this novel bewitching the readers into a trance that forces them to read the novel for hours and hours. This book is appropriate for ages 7-11.

This book should definitely be given as a gift because *Matilda* is a book that one will keep with herself/himself even as they grow up to be an adult. I shall vouch for that as I have kept and cherished this book for more than I can remember and I am 15. Everyone has a little of *Matilda* inside of them and *Matilda* only just brings that out, allowing the reader to embrace themselves even more.

### Book Recommendations

A few other titles that I would recommend along with this book by Roald Dahl are:

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

*James and the Giant Peach*

*The BFG*