

How to print this booklet

Open the PDF, choose Print, and set these:

Paper size	US Letter (8.5 × 11 in)
Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
Flip on	Short edge
Scale	100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page”
Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



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Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Matilda

Author:

Roald Dahl

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.

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How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

How does Matilda use Fred's parrot to make her family think there is a ghost? What makes her trick convincing?

Example answer: I think Matilda's trick works because her family hears a voice but cannot see where it comes from. She borrows Fred's talking parrot and hides it in the chimney. Her family thinks the hidden voice belongs to a ghost. This shows me that Matilda notices how she can use ordinary things in clever ways.

How to Answer (continued)

Do you think Bruce Bogtrotter's classmates help him during the chocolate-cake punishment? Explain how their actions affect him.

Example answer: I think Bruce's classmates help him even though they cannot eat the cake for him. They cheer him on instead of laughing at him. Their support seems to give him courage to keep going. To me, the scene shows that people can make a hard situation easier by standing together.

What details in Miss Honey's cottage show how she lives? Explain how Matilda's visit changes your understanding of her teacher.

Example answer: I noticed that Miss Honey's cottage has very little furniture and few comforts. Even making tea is different from making it in a regular kitchen. Before this visit, I mostly thought of her as Matilda's kind teacher. Now I see that she has serious troubles of her own, even though she still cares about her students.

Chapter 1

How does Matilda become a reader before she starts school, and how does Mrs. Phelps help her at the library?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

When her parents prepare to leave, what choice does Matilda ask them to let her make? Explain what her choice shows about where she feels loved and understood.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Mr. Wormwood tricks customers when he sells cars. What does the word dishonest mean, and which of his methods shows that meaning?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Why does Matilda put superglue in her father's hat, and what does this prank show about how she handles unfair treatment?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

What message does the moving chalk write for Miss Trunchbull, and why do those particular words have such a strong effect on her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

How does Matilda practice moving her father's cigar, and what does her practice show about the difference between having a talent and learning to use it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

How does Matilda use Fred's parrot to make her family think there is a ghost? What makes her trick convincing?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

When Matilda works out her father's car profits in her head, how does he react? What does his reaction reveal about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

Matilda asks Miss Honey for her father's name, her aunt's name, and her own first name. What do you predict Matilda might do with this information, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How has Miss Honey's aunt controlled her life, according to the story she tells Matilda? What makes it difficult for Miss Honey to stand up for herself?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

After Matilda's hair-product prank turns Mr. Wormwood's hair an unexpected color, how do you predict he will treat her? Use his behavior so far to explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What does Miss Honey discover about Matilda during their first lesson together, and how is her response different from the responses Matilda gets at home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

What details in Miss Honey's cottage show how she lives? Explain how Matilda's visit changes your understanding of her teacher.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

How does Matilda's second attempt to move the glass help Miss Honey understand what happened? Why does it matter that Miss Honey watches carefully?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Why does Miss Trunchbull refuse to help when Miss Honey explains Matilda's abilities? What does their conversation show about the two teachers?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

During Miss Honey's visit, what do Matilda's parents say about learning and success? How do their ideas compare with Miss Honey's?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What happens between Matilda's angry thoughts and the glass tipping over? Explain why this moment is such a surprise to her.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

During Miss Trunchbull's weekly classroom visit, how does she use fear to control the children? Describe an example and explain its effect.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

How do Hortensia's stories and Miss Trunchbull's treatment of Amanda Thripp help Matilda understand life at Crunchem Hall?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Do you think Bruce Bogtrotter's classmates help him during the chocolate-cake punishment? Explain how their actions affect him.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What steps does Lavender take to prepare her newt prank, and what do those steps show about her personality?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
