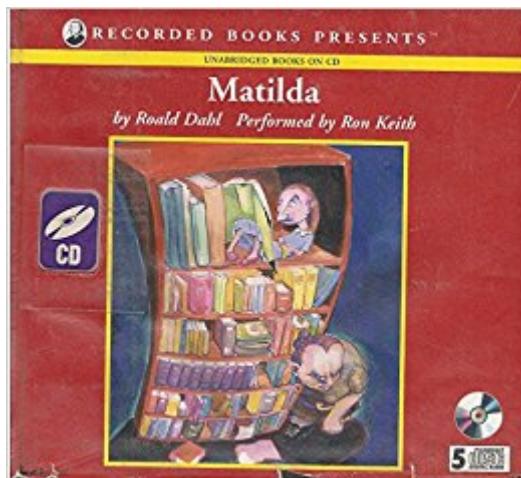


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Matilda



Synopsis

Matilda is a genius but can a genius survive the rampages of 200 pounds of meanness Miss Trunchbull or can she come up with a crafty plan.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Matilda is a genius but can a genius survive the rampages of 200 pounds of meanness Miss Trunchbull or can she come up with a crafty plan.

Matilda is a modern tale that has many elements of the old folk European stories, with angelical people and evil people that you immediately love and hate, and air of defiance of the adults world that hooks up children. What separates Matilda from old fairy tales is that, despite the character being a female heroine, the story does not want to turn it into a princess or into a girlfriend or into a male character's attachment. Matilda is brilliant because she is an individual and knows what she wants. The book speaks about the importance of family values and being brought up properly, and on the the importance of your willpower and education to overcome any struggle and become your best self. The book reads effortlessly and fast, and it is truly enjoyable. A classic of the children literature. I like Quentin Blake's illustrations style but, I don't resonate with his images in this book, perhaps because I imagine Matilda being very different from what is drawn, and somewhat the rest does not fit in my mind as "what should be".

My 5 year old daughter says this deserves 5 stars. She loved the story, and then also enjoyed the

movie after we read it. However, I have to give it 4 because the content does bother me somewhat. Even though Matilda is mistreated, I find some of her retaliations wrong as well. She does mean things in return for mean things done to her. Not exactly the message I want my daughter to have. We need to leave this "eye for an eye" mentality to find balance in relationships.

This story has spawned a film and a major stage musical, but it comes nowhere near the classic status of CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY. I detest the two-dimensionality of the parents--they are simply boo-hiss villains and the ease in which they discard their child at the end of the story is unbelievable for an adult reader. On a child's level, this won't be a problem. The thing that makes this story special is that the protagonist is a little girl who is horribly raised by the adults in her life, except one. She uses her intellect and gifts to get the better of the evil adults and triumph. This is the power that all kids wish they could have--especially little girls, who also have nasty little boys to contend with. As a kid I loved any story with a kid protagonist that used his own cunning to triumph in a world of misguided adults and this is one of them.

All of Roald Dahl's key works contain common features that make his books special and unique. Apart from gripping tales of the unexpected, the key reason for their appeal is in the treatment of the baddies in the story. However, Dahl counters this rollicking, uproarious and wicked humour with deep relationships between the young protagonist and a sensible grown-up in his social circle. This theme features throughout most if not all his works, and was first introduced when he wrote *Danny, the Champion of the World* (Puffin Novels), maturing when Dahl wrote *The BFG*, *The Witches* (Puffin Novels) and *Matilda*. On the surface, *Matilda* may be a gripping yarn that revolves around Matilda's environment of Crunchem Hall Primary School and the domain of fearsome Miss Trunchbull, arguably the most revolting villain that Dahl ever created. This harks back to his own dark days as a student. As with all his books, Dahl keeps his audience of young readers in mind. Not only is his style easily accessible and lively, but he sides with his young audience through his writing. He draws the characters of Miss Trunchbull and Matilda's repulsive parents such that they convey revolting personas and you wouldn't want to befriend them. Dahl particularly draws the character of the Trunchbull effectively such that we readers can really feel her as a "holy terror that frightened the life out of the pupils and teachers alike". I admit that this book dwells a little too much on the Trunchbull's torturous punishments, but these only serve to make the Trunchbull more real. A signature twist to make this a tale of the unexpected is when Miss Honey reveals that Matilda's father was a crook who sold stolen cars. However, the understated core of the

book should be Matilda herself and her relationship with Miss Honey. His portrayal of this relationship offers distinct echoes of Danny's relationship with his father in Danny the Champion of the World. From the moment that Dahl first introduces us to Matilda's maturity, we know that we are getting to know an extraordinary little girl. In spite of her sensitive and brilliant mind, she is a character who engages our sympathies. Matilda always strives to break free of the thrall of her crooked family, especially her father, who acts and talks like a gangster towards her. Matilda strikes up an acquaintance with Miss Honey and quickly learns of Miss Honey's situation. She is then able to do things in her power to help her and restore her rightful claim to her father's inheritance. This may appear to be self-interest on Matilda's part, but she does this because she shows a genuine sympathy to Miss Honey's plight. In short, this swansong in Dahl's long children's novels stands as an undisputed masterwork and demonstrates the maturity in Dahl's children's writing. It's truly a work that shows Dahl at the top of his game, at the pinnacle of his writing career, and sums up all that his children's writing has come to stand for. (Apparently he spent 20 years writing this book.) Although I could have done with less coverage of the Trunchbull's cruelty, this book is still an undisputed Dahl classic that deserves to be up there with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Fantastic Mr. Fox and The BFG.

Absolutely LOVED it! Best \$7.99 I spent on a book experience to share with my son. At 8 years old, my son doesn't always love the books I choose for him, but having grown up reading Roald Dahl classics, I figured he HAS to like it, even just a little bit. I read the whole book out loud to him, and he kept begging for more. It reignited his passion for reading, and stories... and now I want to get another Roald Dahl classic!!

Such a great classic. Matilda has been one of my favorites since I was a child. I in turn bought this as a birthday gift for my 12 year old daughter. I feel Matilda is relatable. The characters are corky and funny. This book really made imagination fly as a kid. I love how Matilda learns to love herself and appreciate her abilities, even when her life was lonely and hard. She overcame, it's a Lovely story.

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