

Book Report on *Matilda*

Children's Literature

I. Introduction

Matilda is a children's book written by Roald Dahl and published in 1988. It is a popular story loved by young readers for its humor, imagination, and strong message about standing up for yourself. The book is realistic fiction with a touch of fantasy, especially when Matilda discovers her special powers. The main themes of the story include intelligence, kindness, bravery, and the importance of being treated fairly.

II. Summary

The book follows a little girl named Matilda Wormwood, who is very smart and loves to read. Even though she is extremely intelligent, her parents do not appreciate her. They are rude, lazy, and never pay attention to her feelings or needs. Matilda learns to take care of herself and even plays funny tricks on her parents to teach them lessons.

When Matilda starts school, she meets her teacher, Miss Honey, who immediately notices how bright and talented she is. Miss Honey is kind, gentle, and supportive, and she becomes the first adult in Matilda's life who truly cares about her. Unfortunately, the school is run by the mean

headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, who is scary and cruel to the students. She enjoys punishing children and uses her strength to bully everyone around her.

As the story continues, Matilda discovers that she has a magical power: she can move objects with her mind. She practices using this power and eventually uses it to protect her classmates and Miss Honey from Miss Trunchbull's harsh behavior.

In the end, Miss Trunchbull is forced to leave the school after Matilda scares her using her powers. Miss Honey is finally free from her control, and Matilda begins to live with her. Matilda finds a loving home for the first time, and the story ends happily.

III. Analysis and Evaluation

Roald Dahl's writing style is simple, funny, and full of imagination, making the book easy for children to enjoy. He uses exaggeration and humor to show how silly and unfair the adults around Matilda can be. The story is fast-paced and entertaining, with clear descriptions that help readers picture the characters and events. One of the strengths of the book is how it mixes real-life problems—like unfair adults—with magical elements that make the story exciting. A small weakness is that some characters, like Matilda's parents, are very exaggerated, but this makes the story funnier and more playful.

IV. Themes and Messages

A major theme is **kindness**. Miss Honey treats Matilda with love and respect, showing how important it is for children to have caring adults in their lives. Another theme is **bravery**, as Matilda stands up to unfair adults and uses her intelligence to solve problems. The story also teaches that **learning and reading are powerful**, and that even small people can make big changes.

V. Character Analysis

Matilda is smart, brave, and kind. She represents children who think differently and have special talents.

Miss Honey is gentle and loving, and she shows how important support and encouragement are.

Miss Trunchbull is the villain of the story, serving as a symbol of unfair and abusive authority.

Matilda's parents show how adults can be ignorant or selfish, but Matilda's cleverness helps her rise above their behavior.

VI. Personal Reflection

I enjoyed *Matilda* because it is both funny and inspiring. The book teaches that being kind and using your talents can help you overcome difficult situations. Matilda's courage and love for reading make her a character many readers can look up to.

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, *Matilda* is a heartfelt and entertaining children's book with strong messages about fairness, bravery, and the power of learning. It remains a favorite for young readers because of its creativity, humor, and unforgettable characters.