

Unit 1 What are you watching?

Matilda



Matilda is a smart and intelligent girl who loves reading and playing up small tricks. She has magic powers and she can also make objects fly. She attends a school where the headmistress is Miss

Trunchbull a bitter and cruel woman. She makes Crunchem Hall into a prison, locking children in the “chokey” (a room which is like a closet filled with sharp nails and no light!) if they misbehave. Trunchbull likes punishing the students for things they haven't even done. Her methods include force-feeding a child with cake, locking them in a spiked closet, and grabbing one by the hair and throwing them out of the school grounds. Matilda's parents are loud, selfish and unkind.

Yet, despite this cruelty, Matilda shows great courage in standing up to them all and defending her schoolmates -- even if this does sometimes include playing pranks. She also finds comfort in her kind-hearted teacher, Miss Honey Miss Jennifer Honey is Matilda’s teacher at Crunchem Hall Primary School. She is a loving, caring teacher who only wants the best for her students. She recognises that Matilda is an exceptionally smart and special little girl and helps Matilda to uncover her magical abilities. Miss Honey is also the niece of the evil headmistress of Crunchem Hall, Miss Trunchbull. As well as the kind Miss Honey, Matilda meets the story-loving librarian, Mrs Phelps, and many new school friends. Matilda dares to teach Trunchbull a lesson she won’t forget.

Adapted from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/26/movies/matilda-musical-review-roald-dahl.html>

Exercise 1: Choose the best answer from (a), (b) or (c).

1. What does Matilda enjoy doing?
 - a) Watching television.
 - b) Reading books.
 - c) Going to school.

2. What is extraordinary about Matilda?
 - a) She has supernatural abilities.
 - b) She is clever.
 - c) She is brave.

3. Trunchbull's perfect school would have _____ .
 - a) no discipline
 - b) punishment
 - c) kind teachers

4. Which word best describes Matilda's parents?
 - a) loving
 - b) cruel
 - c) optimistic

5. Mrs Honey is Trunchbull's _____ .
 - a) librarian
 - b) daughter
 - c) niece

Exercise 2: Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. How does Miss Trunchbull punish the students?

2. Do you agree with her tactics? Why or why not?

3. What would be a more appropriate punishment?

Exercise 3: Read the three texts below and choose the best answer for each question.

Three great TV shows for teens

1. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)

Spend an evening of witchcraft and wizardry with the first story of the beloved Harry Potter series. When a young boy learns about his true identity and magical powers, he soon finds himself on Platform 9 3/4 on the way to Hogwarts, which is a boarding school unlike any other. Adventure awaits for our new wizard.

2. Bake Squad - Netflix

One of my favourite shows to watch with my kids is Bake Squad on Netflix. In this show, the team of professional bakers has to create cakes and other baked treats and sweets for events for real people on set.

They have some information on the person and event they are baking for, and they use their creativity, empathy, and baking skills to bake some amazing creations.

3. Friday Night Lights

The drama about a high school football team in the small town of Dillon, Texas, where one night matters: Friday Night. Eric Taylor has recently been hired as the head football coach for the Dillon High School Panthers, the town's pride and joy. Friday Night Lights displays the stress that the town gives the high school players to win, and the hope that the team gives to a small town. It's also about how a team has its low points, its high points, and how they come together as a team on their way to victory. Whether you've never seen it or just want to watch it again, *Friday Night Lights* offers something quite different from many other shows: optimism. It was inspired by a true story.

		Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)	Bake Squad	Friday Night Lights
1	Which show takes place in the USA?	A	B	C
2	Which show is set in a studio?	A	B	C
3	Which show is based on real events?	A	B	C
4	Which show is about optimism?	A	B	C
5	Which show is about a competition to win over people?	A	B	C
6	Which show is a fantasy film?	A	B	C
7	Which show is based on a novel?	A	B	C

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Answer Key!

Exercise 1

1. b, 2. a, 3. b, 4. b, 5. c

Exercise 2

1. She locks them up in the 'chokey', force-feeds them a cake, locks them in a spiked closet, grabs them by the hair and throws them out of the school grounds.
2. & 3. Students' own answers

Exercise 3

1. C, 2. B, 3. C, 4. C, 5. B, 6.A, 7. A