

Matilda - The New Home

Lesson
plan

Overview

Learning objective

- To develop critical thinking and reasoning skills.

Learning outcome

- To create a roleplay of a courtcase scene in which Mr Wormwood is on trial.

Book reference

- Chapter 21: The New Home.

Cross-curricular link

- Drama, Literacy, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education.

Resources

- The room set up ready to put Mr Wormwood on trial.



Starter

- Play Mr Wormwood-Off! Two children come to the front of the class facing opposite each other. One child roleplays one of Mr Wormwood's dissatisfied customers and the other plays Mr Wormwood. The customer complains about everything that is wrong, and Mr Wormwood deflects every remark. They can say one word each. The customer says the car is rusty. Mr Wormwood says it's vintage. The customer points out a bump in the car. Mr Wormwood says it makes the car look more decorative. The person who can keep going the longest wins.



Main teaching activity

- Each child takes on a role. These can be:
 - The Judge.
 - The Jury (12 children.)
 - The defendant: Mr Wormwood.
 - Mr Wormwood's lawyer.
 - The witnesses to give statements: Miss Honey, Matilda, Michael.
 - Other characters as necessary – car dealers, buyers, car thieves, and so on.
- The children representing characters prepare statements and arguments. The Judge and Jury prepare questions to ask each character.

Group or independent activity

- Run the court case scene through improvisation.
- The Jury give their verdict



Plenary

- Reflect on the court case and evaluate some of the best lines of reasoning.

Other activities

- Mr and Mrs Wormwood have written a postcard to Matilda and Miss Honey now that they are safely in another country. What do they say in the postcard?
- Children read aloud their postcards and comment on the mood and tone of the postcards to generate new vocabulary. Does Mr Wormwood sound regretful? Triumphant? Sincere?
- A detective visits Miss Honey's house one day to interview her in connection with the mysterious disappearance of the Wormwood family, except for their daughter, Matilda. In groups, roleplay the interview. What will happen next? Will Matilda cover for her father or tell the truth?

