

Matilda - The Platinum-Blond Man

Lesson
plan

Overview

Learning objective

- To develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Learning outcome

- To create a new trick for Matilda to play on her parents.

Book reference

- Chapter 6: The Platinum-Blond Man.

Cross-curricular link

- Literacy, Drama, Critical Thinking.

Resources

- Props for a new trick for Matilda to play on her parents.



Starter

- Show the Quentin Blake illustration from chapter six in which Mrs Wormwood has dropped her plate so that the food is flying everywhere.
- Come up with ideas as what has happened to cause the scene.

Main teaching activity

- Read the sixth chapter of *Matilda*, The Platinum-Blond Man.
- Recap the tricks Matilda plays on her parents: the hat, the parrot and the hair dye.
- Discuss these questions:
 - What do these tricks have in common?
 - What makes these tricks work?
- Possible answers:
 - The parents can never blame Matilda for the tricks;
 - The tricks make her parents look silly;
 - Matilda is a great actress and can invent ways to cover herself and also make her parents believe the trick is real.

Matilda - The Platinum-Blond Man cont.

Group or independent activity

- In groups, the children discuss ideas for a new trick for Matilda to play on her parents.
- Groups prepare a roleplay between Mr and Mrs Wormwood and Matilda, showing the parents fall for the trick and also Matilda's great acting to help the trick to work.
- Each group can be given a prop to use to stimulate an idea for the trick.



Plenary

- Groups show their role plays to the rest of the class.

Other activities

- Write up the trick as an extra scene.
- Learn how to write scripts and write up the trick as a script.
- Learn about speech verbs and study the speech verbs used in the dramatic argument in Chapter Six, including "shouted," "shrieked," "yelled," "cried," "wailed," and "sighed." Use thesauri to find more examples of speech verbs and include them in the written chapter of the story.
- Learn how to write instructions using imperatives. Write up the trick as a set of instructions. Then make a class book entitled Matilda's Book of Tricks.