

Matilda - The Weekly Test

Lesson
plan

Overview

Learning objective

- To demonstrate understanding of character.

Learning outcome

- To describe a character using new vocabulary.

Book reference

- Chapter 13: The Weekly Test.

Cross-curricular link

- Literacy, Drama.

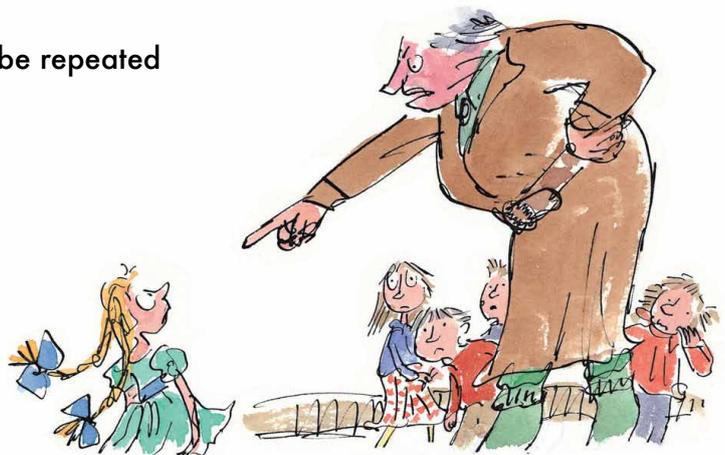
Resources

- Cards with a Trunchbull insult written on each one; thesauri.



Starter

- Give each child a card with a Trunchbull insult written on it. When you point at a child, he or she must shout out their insult, enunciating the consonants clearly.
- Make a Trunchbull Orchestra. Ask the insults to be repeated loudly, softly, quickly, slowly, angrily, calmly, hysterically, sweetly; two children at a time, everyone altogether, and so on.



Main teaching activity

- What do these insults tell us about Miss Trunchbull's character? Make a list on the board of words to describe her. The children can use thesauri to find new words.
- Read Chapter thirteen, The Weekly Test.

Group or independent activity

- Nigel learns how to spell 'difficulty' using a mnemonic. A mnemonic is any technique that helps us remember information.
- Model and scaffold how to make a mnemonic to remember how to spell Miss Trunchbull. Make an acrostic of letters of her name to describe her. For example: Miss Trunchbull is Truly, Really, Unbelievably Not Capable, Having Bullied Us Little Losers!
- Divide the class into groups and allocate each group a character: Miss Trunchbull, Matilda, Miss Honey, Mr and Mrs Wormwood and others such as Lavender or Bruce Bogtrotter.
- The groups' task is to make a mnemonic to describe the character, by making an acrostic of the character's name.
- Then make a list of words to describe the character, using thesauri to find new words.
- Choose a hard, long word and make a mnemonic to remember it. For example, Miss Trunchbull is Complacent. To remember the word 'complacent,' we can remember: Cool Orangutangs Made Pickled Leeks And Carried Elephants Near Trees.

Trunchbull Insults cards

You poisonous pustule!
 You disgusting criminal!
 You suppurating little blister!
 You foul carbuncle!
 You blithering idiot!
 You festering gumboil!
 You fleabitten fungus!
 You stagnant cesspool!
 You bursting blister!
 You moth-eaten maggot!
 You mangled little wurzel!
 You ignorant little slug!
 You witless weed!
 You empty-headed hamster!
 You stupid glob of glue!
 You squirming worm!
 You poisonous little pockmark!
 You little wart!
 You little brute!
 You unhatched shrimp!
 You little stinker!
 You bluebottle!
 You little rat!
 You disgusting little cockroach!
 You filthy little maggot!
 You clotted carbuncle!

Plenary

- Groups present their work to the class, stating:
 - The character.
 - The acrostic of the character's name.
 - The chosen word to describe the character.
 - The mnemonic of the new word.



Other activities

- Explain that Miss Trunchbull's use of insults is very inventive. Ask the children to identify elements of the language in her insults. For example: alliteration ("poisonous little pockmark"), animal imagery ("rat," "hamster"), images of disgusting things ("worm," "slug," "weed," "blister"), even rhyme ("squirming worm"). In pairs, the children create their own inventive Trunchbull insults to add to the Trunchbull Orchestra, using the techniques above. No slang is allowed!

