

# ***MATILDA***

## **Themes for Discussion**

- family dynamic
- asynchronous development
- abuse

## **Materials needed**

- DVD or Digital Copy of MOVIE (Director: Danny Devito, 1996)
- Equipment for showing film screen/monitor/dvd player/computer/speakers
- Paper/Journals/Writing Utensils
- Activity Descriptions/Directions
- Discussion Questions

## **Purpose of activity**

- To promote recognizing different types of abuse
- To discuss what it means to have a sense of belonging/fitting in
- To discuss developmental struggles
- To explore learning interests

## **Plot summary**

- “MATILDA is an extraordinary girl, a child of wondrous intelligence- unfortunately her neglectful and deeply stupid parents. Harry and Zinnia Wormwood are too wrapped up in their own little lives to care, or even to notice, that their daughter is a budding genius. Matilda is in love with books and learning. When the Wormwoods finally grants Matilda’s wish to attend school, they bundle her off to Crunchem Hall, a bleak brick prison where students cower before the whip-hand and fist of a hulking monster-Principal, Agatha Trunchbull.

Amid Crunchem's darkness, Matilda finds a single light in warm-hearted Miss Honey, the first grade teacher who recognises the girl’s remarkable skills. Miss Honey also sees a very special talent that allows the spirited girl to turn the tables on the wicked grown-ups in her world. Matilda is a modern fairy tale. The story of a little girl who creates her own place in the world through strength, courage, and an exceptional knack for mischief.”

'Roald Dahl’s Matilda’, dir. Danny DeVito. Running time: 98mins Certificate PG

[www.filmeducation.org](http://www.filmeducation.org)

## **Description of activity**

- This activity is called “Candy Capers.” Compare a character from the movie to a candy bar or other candy product. How are the two alike? Support your choice with details about the character’s personality and action in the movie.
- In your journal, write or type a rough draft, then revise, edit, and print/write final copy.
- List of possible candy (you can use others):



(Activity reference: Dr. James, UWF)

### Discussion questions

- Do you think Matilda was simply misunderstood by her parents?
- How did Matilda’s parents treat her brother compared to her?
- How do you think Matilda felt about her family?
- Do you think Matilda expected things to be better at school than at home?
- In what ways did Matilda stand-up for herself?
- What do you think she should have done about her dad’s business?
- Why did she struggle to get adults to listen to her? Was it her fault?
- What would you say that the adults in Matilda’s life could have done to better understand her and help her?

