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Matilda book review pdf

This story is, quite simply, Roald Dahl at his best. Opening the cover to find the slightly tattered pages filled with uncomplicated illustrations, I am instantly transported back to my childhood. I can picture the places I sat to read this story, reacquaint myself with the feelings of comfort, inspiration and amusement I experienced whenever I read it. It is one of my all-time favourites. In this book, Matilda discovers her love of books and by the age of three, has taught herself to read. At four she has read all the children's stories in the library. She is oblivious to her brilliance and her parents are less than encouraging. "What's wrong with the telly, for heaven's sake?" her father demands, while her mother insists that brains never got a woman anywhere. It is not until Matilda attends school and meets the lovely Miss Honey that anyone begins to nurture her talent. But things don't become easier for Matilda there. She must survive a place ruled by the frightening and larger-than-life Miss Trunchbull who has Matilda in her sights, insisting she is "a nasty little worm". Within the familiar schoolground setting, Roald Dahl takes his readers into the world of one little girl enduring cruelty, loneliness and an overwhelming power to teach lessons to the adults in her life. The combination of speaking directly to the reader and crawling into the minds of his characters, is classic Dahl. Only he could be responsible for dreaming up the amazing tales of disciplinary proceedings at Crunchem Hall Primary School. This story is beautifully heartwarming; a surprising mix of humour, adventure and mystery. And, as with any Dahl story, Matilda provides a strong message to children: you can do it. Oh, plus a message to grown-ups – treat your children nicely, as they're not as helpless as you may imagine! Title: Matilda Author: Roald Dahl Illustrator: Quentin Blake Publisher: Puffin, A\$14.95 Publication Date: September 1989 Format: Paperback ISBN: 9780140327595 For ages: 8 - 12 Type: Junior Fiction "So Matilda's strong young mind continued to grow, nurtured by the voices of all those authors who had sent their books out into the world like ships on the sea. These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You are not alone." Synopsis: Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. She expects school to be different but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a kid-hating terror of a headmistress. When Matilda is attacked by the Trunchbull she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it! Source: Goodreads Title: Matilda Author: Roald Dahl, Quentin Blake (Illustrator) Links: Amazon CA | Book Depository | Goodreads Genre / Themes: Classic Literature | Humour | Magic Point of View: Third Person Omniscient Publisher: Puffin Books Publication Date: 2016 (First published 1988) Format: Hardcover Pages: 233 As a child, the film adaptation of Matilda (1996) was my all-time favourite — and to be honest, it's remains to be today. It's one of those magical movies that make you see the beauty in the world and the people who inhabit it, which is always a lovely refresher. As part of The Book Junkie Trials, I decided to re-read Dahl's classic children's novel since I barely remembered the book version. Overall, this was a lovely experience and perfect choice to kick off this epic hunt for the Bookie Grail challenge! CONTENT & TRIGGER WARNING: This book contains abuse (emotional, verbal, physical, child abuse, child neglect, absent parent), bullying and loss of a loved one (mentioned). To all the book lovers out in the world, this is a novel for you! Not only is the main character a bookworm, but there's a HUGE emphasis throughout the story about the importance and beauty of literature. From knowledge seeking to emotional comfort, Dahl remarks on the multiple joys and benefits of being a reader. What I found TRULY profound in the novel is the comments that Matilda makes about reading and literature that I believe ALL readers have experienced as some point, making her love of literature feel more authentic. Dahl's Matilda addresses the importance of education and child empowerment. Access to education is such a privilege, when it should be a right. Matilda's desire and urgency to go to school illustrates how we take for granted some things that seem universal yet aren't. In addition, Dahl points out how age and size do NOT equate to intelligence ... and that it's our duty to help bring these intelligent beings up rather than drag them down. Miss Honey's impeccable attention to caring for Matilda's intellectual needs rather than dismissing them as the other adults do is an EXCELLENT example of how parents and educators alike should act and behave in the REAL WORLD. The narrative style's one of the most exceptional parts of this story, making it an easy read for children and adult's alike. The third person narrative is exceptionally well done. It makes you feel as though you're sitting in the library for story time rather than actually physically reading the book yourself. It's very PERSONABLE and COMPELLING, drawing readers in more. This narration style also helps draw out more humour, especially with the narrator's witty comments about characters in the novel. For such an older children's book, I was BLOWN away by the number of real issues Dahl tackles. Bullying, child neglect, multiple forms of abuse, illegal work ... Dahl unveils a number of serious topics in this adorable children's classic, highlighting the importance of fighting against these things that unfortunately occur in real life. Though some things are dramatized, this element makes the book more child friendly rather than a scary book about awful teachers and even worse parents. Using the dramatics and playful nature, Dahl makes this a FUN read for all ages while educating readers on very REAL issues. For parents and educators, be prepared to explain a number of words and phrases. Throughout the story, there were a number of words that I had Google in order to know the meaning. When reading children's literature, one of the KEY things I look for is how easy will the child will comprehend the language and the story. There weren't TOO many instances, but I think Dahl could've selected better word choices and phrases to keep the child interested and engaged. Due to the amount of twists spontaneously appearing, the story felt rushed. The plot twists are one of the things that make Matilda a very compelling story ... but they just kept popping up randomly! It's as though Dahl just sporadically thought to add "this" and "that" without realizing he's already more than halfway through the novel. These aren't small twists either ... they're PLOT CHANGING TWISTS! In comparison to the nicely paced first half of the novel, the second half was a bunch of information overload crammed in yet not neatly resolved by the end of the story. Honestly, I was NOT a fan of the "good" and "bad" character stereotypes. This is, unfortunately, a common element I find in older novels. The "good" characters (i.e. Miss Honey and Matilda) are delicate and lovely, with little to know physical "flaws" and more character development. The "bad" characters are obnoxious, have features that the narrator deems as "unsettling and unappealing" and have little character development. It may seem like a silly complaint, but early childhood education should try to RID of these stereotypes, especially since children learn "morals" and ways of viewing people and the world at an early age. If it was minor, it wouldn't have bothered me. But it felt like an ACTUALLY dividing line between the "good" characters being described one way and the "bad" characters being described as another. Roald Dahl's Matilda is a splendid read, one that every book lover is sure to connect with. Though I'm more of a fan of the film adaptation, there's something rather adorable and brilliant behind this sweet children's novel. I recommend this novel if you enjoy: ➔ Light and funny reads ➔ Importance of child empowerment and education ➔ Consequences for ill-mannered behaviour (karma) ➔ Plot oriented story ➔ Fast paced novels Date Read: May 5th, 2018 – May 6th, 2018 Rating: Format: Physical Paperback Summary: Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. She expects school to be different but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a kid-hating terror of a headmistress. When Matilda is attacked by the Trunchbull she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it! Review (Minor Spoilers): Though his writing is generally simple, Roald Dahl includes a surprising amount of large vocabulary words in Matilda. Miss Honey defines "epicure" and "precocious" within dialogue, but the reader must search "parabola", "rustler", "brigand", and "blancmange" on their own or determine the definitions based on the contextual use. Since this is a children's book supposedly for ages seven and up, I'm not a fan of the mild profanity sporadically spoken by the adults. I prefer for children to not become familiar with words like "damn", "twit", and the A-word in literature, especially when such language isn't reprimanded in the text. Matilda tackles subjects of emotional and sometimes physical abuse as well as neglect. These themes are most prominently displayed through Matilda's life in the Wormwood household. Whenever Mr. Wormwood acts cruelly towards her, Matilda secretly retaliates by pranking her father. While I enjoyed seeing the crooked and misogynistic Mr. Wormwood receive his comeuppance, I had a few continuity issues with the pranks. Depending on the consistency of it, the superglue would have either dried before Mr. Wormwood put the hat on his head, or it would have stuck to the cane or hat stand when Matilda hung it up. Also, the bird she uses for the ghost prank would have died from breathing in the chimney fumes all night. My other plot related issues come from the education system at Crunchem Hall: Why doesn't Miss Honey supervise her class of five-year-olds during recess? Why are such small children responsible for tasks like filling up Miss Trunchbull's water jug? Lavender should have had another student walk with her at the very least. Lastly, why are five-year-olds learning multiplication? I didn't start learning that until the fourth grade! This story is full of lovable characters, the title character being the most memorable. This well-rounded character may be an inspiration for younger readers considering her eagerness to learn. I like that there are limitations to Matilda's intelligence. Though she is able to read and multiply extremely well for a five-year-old, there are still certain words and themes in the books she reads that she isn't able to understand yet. After displaying her telekinesis to Miss Honey, she jumps with excitement, curious about the extent of her new powers. She may be a genius, but she is still a child with little life experience and wide-eyed inquisitiveness. Matilda doesn't sugarcoat the dark and depressing trials one may face in life but simultaneously teaches the reader to endure the tough times. The story also displays how clever children are. Though they are small and know very little about the world, one should never underestimate their intelligence. 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