

Matilda - Miss Trunchbull

Lesson
plan

Overview

Learning objective

- To explore character using evidence from the text.
- To develop empathetic and dramatic skills.

Learning outcome

- To produce a character response to a situation through drama or written account.

Book reference

- After the class has finished reading *Matilda*.

Cross-curricular link

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

Resources

- Costumes and props for Miss Trunchbull and school children at Crunchem Primary School.



Starter

- Working in groups, the children think of as many descriptive words as possible to describe Miss Trunchbull, using evidence from the text if necessary.
- Groups share ideas with the rest of the class.
- Make a list of the best descriptive words on the board.



Main teaching activity

- Ask for examples of Miss Trunchbull's reactions to situations (Julius Rottwinkle, p104; Amanda Thripp, p106; Bruce Bogtrotter p111.)
- Take the children on an imaginary journey:

You are late for school and in your panic you forgot your school jumper. It is the school photo today. All of the children are lined up outside getting ready for the school photo but they are being inspected by Miss Trunchbull first. You rush to the end of the line and wait as Miss Trunchbull walks down the line and finally gets to you.

- In pairs the children discuss the following questions:
- Imagine how it would feel if Miss Trunchbull was their teacher.
- How do you feel as Miss Trunchbull gets closer?
- What happens when Miss Trunchbull reaches you?



Group or independent activity

- In groups act out a scene showing Miss Trunchbull walking down the line. What happens next?
- Teach the children the freeze-frame technique. When the action is paused, each character must speak their inner thoughts aloud.

Plenary

- Groups show their pieces of drama to the group.

Other activities

- In the role of a child at the school, write an diary account of what happened at school that day, describing in detail the child's feelings and the way Miss Trunchbull acted.
- In groups, the children think of a new situation at school in which Miss Trunchbull intimidates the students. This time, perhaps the children get their own back!
- Role play the scene.
- Write a new chapter for the book showing the scene.

