

## Matilda - The Ghost

Lesson  
plan

### Overview

#### Learning objective

- To develop skills in sensory description and empathetic writing.

#### Learning outcome

- To create a composition on the events of Chapter 4 from the point of view of the parrot.

#### Book reference

- Chapter 4: The Ghost.

#### Cross-curricular link

- Literacy, Drama, PSICHE.

#### Resources

- Thesauri, blindfolds, a chair for the hotseat.



### Starter

- The children go outside and close eyes or wear blindfolds.
- In pairs, the children describe what they can hear, smell and touch.
- Go back inside and create a class mindmap of the experience.



### Main teaching activity

- Read the fourth chapter of *Matilda, The Ghost*.
- Children find evidence from the text that shows how the parrot may be feeling.
- One child volunteers to be the parrot and comes to sit in the hotseat. The rest of the class asks questions to the parrot, for example:
  - What was in your mind when you were in the chimney?
  - As you were stuck in the chimney, you couldn't see anything. What could you hear, smell, taste, touch?
  - Can you say more than "Hullo, hullo, hullo" and "Rattle my bones"? If so, why didn't you say other things?
  - How did you feel when Matilda finally took you out of the chimney?
  - What do you think of Fred, Matilda, Matilda's family?
- Ask the class for a volunteer to be a parrot with a completely different personality. Repeat the hot seating exercise.



### Group or independent activity

- Independently, the children write a piece from the point of view of the parrot. They should avoid rewriting the chapter and rather focus on the experience of being in the chimney.
- Use the questions above as guidelines.
- Use thesauri to widen vocabulary.



### Plenary

- Individuals read their compositions aloud to the class.

### Other activities

- In groups, the children act out the scene between Matilda, Matilda's family, and the voice of the parrot.
- In groups, create a freeze frame of a scene from the chapter. One by one, each character, including the parrot, melts and speaks their innermost thoughts.
- Learn about suspense, climax and anti-climax. Explore how the scene is an example of anti-climax.

