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Level 2
Book Review
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Book Review¹

Roald Dahl's book Matilda² is about a little girl with magical powers. Matilda is a very sweet and intelligent five year old little girl.³ Unfortunately, she has terrible parents who do not care about her. When she went to school, she became friends with her teacher Miss Honey.⁴ Miss Honey is a kind teacher who all the students love. She is very different from Miss Trunchbull.⁵ Matilda⁶ is a wonderful book because Matilda is an admiring⁷ character. She is brave and smart and helps Miss Honey at the end of the story.

Matilda is a genius girl.⁸ When she was one, she knew as many words as grown⁹. When she was three, Matilda taught herself to read by studying newspapers and magazines left around the house.¹⁰ Miss Honey is the only one who realizes how brilliant Matilda is and tries to talk to Miss Trunchbull

¹ Try to think of a more appropriate title. This is too simple and does not tell the reader anything about your book review.

² Make sure to underline book titles.

³ Repetition. Try to vary your words.

⁴ Watch your tense. You shift to the past tense. Make sure you stay in the present.

⁵ Who is Miss Trunchbull? If you mention her, explain why she is important.

⁶ Look at Footnote 1.

⁷ This means that Matilda admires someone. You want to say *admirable*.

⁸ "Genius" is a noun, not an adjective. You can just say *Matilda is a genius*.

⁹ This should be *grown ups*.

¹⁰ Look at Footnote 3. Look at for this in the rest of your paper.

and her parents. **However, it is no use because no one is caring about Matilda.**¹¹ At school, Miss Trunchbull blames Matilda for a prank she did not do. Matilda gets very angry and discovers that she can move things with just her mind. Later, Matilda learns that Miss Trunchbull is really Miss Honey's aunt! She stole Miss Honey's money and house. Matilda devises a **plan, and uses**¹² her magical powers to help Miss Honey get back her home.¹³

Even though Matilda is a little girl, she is **more clever and braver.**¹⁴ Matilda has a mean and dishonest father. He thinks girls are stupid even though Matilda is brilliant. **After Matilda's dad calls her a liar for doing math in her head**¹⁵ she decides to **teach a lesson to her father.**¹⁶ Matilda puts her mother's hair dye into her father's hair dye. His hair turns from black to platinum blonde! Her plan is both smart and funny. Another example is when Matilda tricks Miss **Trunchbull.**¹⁷ While in class, she uses her mind to write on the chalkboard. She pretends to be the ghost of Miss Honey's father. Miss Trunchbull gets scared and gives Miss Honey back her house and money. **She**¹⁸ gets rid of Miss Trunchbull for good and is a hero to

¹¹ Watch your tense. You use *is* (simple present) and then *is caring* (present progressive). *However, it is no use because no one cares about Matilda.*

¹² No comma between an independent clause and dependent clause.

¹³ This plot summary is way too long! Try to capture the gist of the story in less than five sentences.

¹⁴ *More clever and braver* than who? Don't use the comparative form unless you are making a comparison.

¹⁵ Needs a comma after this introductory phrase

¹⁶ *teach her father a lesson.* This is an idiom meaning to get revenge. Teach _____ (a person's name) a lesson is the proper structure.

¹⁷ Spelling

¹⁸ Misplaced pronoun. *Matilda gets rid of Miss Trunchbull...*

everyone! She also gets to live with Miss Honey happily ever after. Matilda comes up with many ideas to get back at nasty people in the story. She **was**¹⁹ never afraid to use her smart thinking or her brainpower.

Matilda is admirable is because she does not show off her powers.²⁰ She only uses her powers against bad people. In fact, even though her classmates know Matilda is clever, she still has lots of friends. She is kind and does not brag about being smart. While all the other kids are learning, Matilda sits quietly and reads textbooks that Miss Honey gives her. You would not know that Matilda was an extraordinary girl if you talked to her. If Matilda was a show off or bothered other students, no one would like her.²¹

This book is a lot of fun to read because Matilda is an amazing character I like. I cheered for Matilda when I read this book. I also want to be smart like Matilda. She only uses her powers to teach cruel adults a lesson. In the end, Matilda loses her power to move things, but she is still very clever and brave. **I think everyone would like this book by Roald Dahl very much.**²²

¹⁹ Look at Footnote 3.

²⁰ Delete the second *is*. Try using a transition word in the topic sentence. *Another reason why...*

²¹ You only give one example in this paragraph to support your idea. You should have at least 2 and no more than 3.

²² This recommendation is not specific enough. Who especially might like this book?

