AUDIENCE RESOURCE GUIDE

Roald Dahl's MATILDA the Musical

At CTC, our mission is to **Educate**, **Challenge**, and **Inspire** our multigenerational audience. This Audience Resource Guide is just one of the ways through which we aim to enhance your experience and further engagement, beyond just seeing the shows on our stage. Use these articles, conversation starters, and activities both before and after you see

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical!



Prepared by the CTC Education, Marketing, and Audience Services teams

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, this is the story of Matilda. Her dreadful parents can't stand her. Her headmistress is a horrible, nasty, name-calling, life-sucking tyrant who puts kids in cupboards with nails and broken glass. (And you thought you had it bad.) This captivating kid-power romp revels in the anarchy of childhood. Celebrating the tenacity of the small, Matilda proves that the strength to be yourself (along with a little telekinetic power) will prevail at the end of the day.

Book by **DENNIS KELLY (Tony Award® Winner - Best Book of a Musical)**

Music and lyrics by **TIM MINCHIN**

Orchestrations and additional music by CHRIS NIGHTINGALE | Directed by PETER C. BROSIUS

Choreography by LINDA TALCOTT LEE | Music Direction by ANDREW FLESER

For fearless 6 to 96-year-olds! | Runs approximately two hours and 30 minutes, with one intermission

APRIL 28 – JUNE 23

EDUCATE: Get to Know Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl was an English author of children's fiction best known for classics such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, and *Matilda*. Born in 1916, Dahl was always mischievous and full of energy. He frequently found himself in trouble at school and had difficulty following all the rules. These childhood memories inspired many of his most memorable characters, including the gruesome Miss Trunchbull.



After graduating, Dahl opted for adventure in Africa working for an oil company rather than going to college. During World War II, Dahl became an Air Force pilot and suffered a severe head injury when his plane crashed. Dahl was then sent to Washington, D.C., and began writing for the Saturday Evening Post which led to his first work of children's fiction, The Gremlins.

His career as a children's author took off in 1961 when James and the Giant Peach was published, with great success. However, this success did not come without criticism: many adults deemed his books too violent towards the adult characters, with many of the adults in his books dying or receiving harsh treatment by children enacting their revenge. Yet, Dahl credits his success to the fact that he joined kids in their revolt against adults.

Early drafts of *Matilda* first had Matilda as a wicked little girl who used her powers to help her teacher solve their financial problems...by fixing a horse race. However, it was the beloved story about a miraculous, kind, intelligent little girl that Dahl published *Matilda* in 1988 and shortly after, won the Children's Book Award. Quentin Blake did the illustrations for the book, and you'll see those throughout this guide!

Dahl died in 1990 after penning 19 children's books.

Learn More about Roald Dahl and Matilda:

Roald Dahl Biography: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Roald-Dahl

The Marvelous World of Roald Dahl Documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTnn5RLxEQo

Matilda on roalddahl.com: https://www.roalddahl.com/roald-dahl/stories/k-o/matilda

EDUCATE: The Making of 'Matilda the Musical'

After great success as a novel and 1996 movie directed by Danny DeVito, starring Mara Wilson as Matilda, *Matilda*'s journey to become a stage musical began in 2008. At the Royal Shakespeare Theatre (Stratford-upon-Avon, England), playwright Dennis Kelly and music director Tim Minchin worked to adapt Roald Dahl's famous book into a musical. It took over two years and many workshops of the script but rehearsals begin in 2010 with an intent to perform to the public just two months later. This premiere was extremely well received by the public, but as with any show, they continued to make adjustments in script



and score until opening night, when the world premiere of *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* received a standing ovation.

The show was soon awarded the Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best Musical and transferred to the West End (England's version of Broadway), where it was nominated in all 10 categories for which it was eligible in the 2012 Olivier Awards (England's version of the Tony® Awards) and won 7—a record in the event's history!

In 2013, Matilda made her way to the United States and premiered on Broadway. The show quickly saw the same level of success they saw in England, and was nominated for 12 Tony Awards®, winning 4, including Best Book of a Musical (Dennis Kelly).

Matilda has continue to jet set around the world with professional premieres in Australia, Canada, Ireland, Philippines and Korea. CTC is lucky enough to join a host of other major regional theatres in producing our own Matilda!

Get to Know the Story

Matilda by Roald Dahl Audiobook: https://youtu.be/NtY08-KF_wl

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical Original London Cast Recording: https://open.spotify.com/artist/7paFidVdtsmKILtHiLZu41



CHALLENGE: Conversation Starters and Activities

Enliven family meals, add more to car rides, and spark conversation with the prompts below! Use the prompts in squares to introduce your family to *Matilda* and its themes before you see the show. After you've finished revolting against Miss Trunchbull, use the prompts in circles to discuss your thoughts together.

BONUS: Compare and contrast elements of the story on the next page using Venn Diagrams!

Roald Dahl uses a lot of descriptive language in his books; read the novel *Matilda*, then practice your descriptive language skills by writing descriptions of Miss Honey, Miss Trunchbull, and the Wormwoods.

Matilda's parents and brother like TV, while Matilda prefers books.
Which do you prefer? How do you prefer to learn?

The kids sing about what they will do "When I grow up." What will you do when you grow up? Why can't you do it now?

Matilda plays pranks on her parents. Have you ever played a prank on someone? Read about real "Revolting Children" on pages 4 and 5.
Each of them had to break the rules in order to enact change.
When is it okay to break the rules? Have you broken rules to affect change?

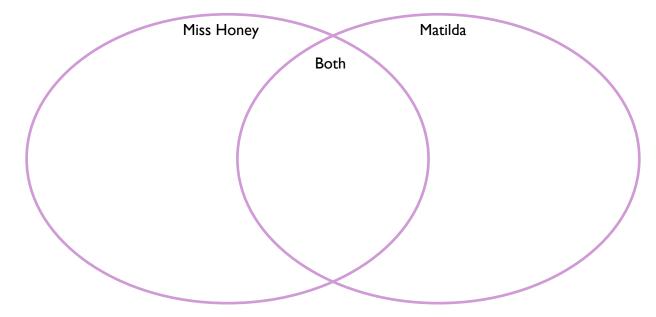
Create an obstacle course in the theme of Miss Trunchbull's Physical Education class.

Write the script for a commercial for Mr. Wormwood's car company. What is the message or lesson in Matilda's story?

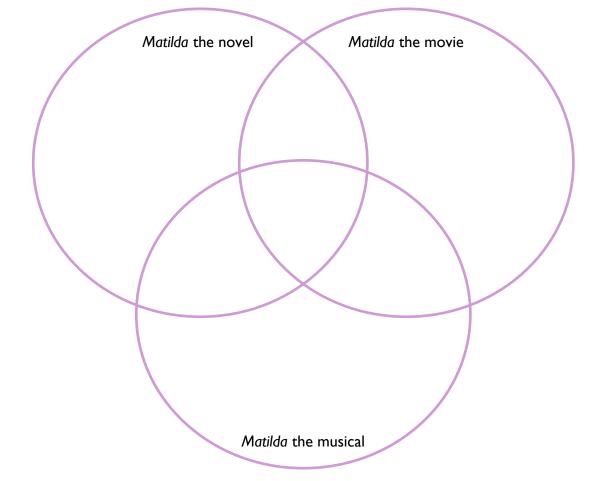
CHALLENGE: Compare and Contrast

You can draw many parallels between characters, places, and more after you see *Matilda*. Compare and contrast with a Venn Diagram, which is made of two circles that overlap in the middle; the middle part represents similarities between two things, and the outsides represent the differences. We've provided a few ideas to get you started on your *Matilda* Venn Diagrams. Fill in more and discuss with your family!

Compare and contrast the stories of Miss Honey and Matilda:



Mix it Up: Compare and contrast THREE things.



CHALLENGE: Role On The Wall

There are many characters in *Matilda*, and each has their own motivation and end goal. In this activity, you'll brainstorm external and internal factors for several characters to create deeper, more empathetic understanding of character motivations.

Choose a character from the play, like Matilda, Bruce, Miss Trunchbull, Michael, or Mr. Wormwood. Then, draw an outline of the character you've selected on a piece of paper, and tape it to the wall. Brainstorm all the external things that impact the character (like other characters, incidents we see and those we hear about, societal pressures, etc.) and write those around the outside of the figure. Next, fill the inside of the character with ideas of how the character feels about all the things on the outside.

Mix it up: If you did not pick Matilda, retell or rewrite the story of *Matilda* from the perspective of the character you did select. How does that change the story? Did this activity change your opinion of that character? Have you ever experienced similar feelings or events?

CHALLENGE: Trunchbull's Chocolate Cake

Now that spring has finally sprung, grab your family and friends and head outside! This activity requires a large open space such as a gym or playground.

Choose one person to play the role of Miss Trunchbull, who will stand at one end of the open space. Encourage this person to use their body to become the character of Miss Trunchbull. Sitting next to them is a stool or



chair with a plate of "chocolate cake" (prop food works well or it can be as simple as a roll of tape). The rest of the group should stand at the opposite end of the space. When Miss Trunchbull turns her back to the group, the students can sneak to try to steal the piece of cake. When Miss Trunchbull turns to face them, they must freeze in place. If Miss Trunchbull catches anyone moving, she yells "Off to Chokey!" and the person caught is sent back to the starting line. When a person succeeds in stealing the cake, they become the new Miss Trunchbull!

CHALLENGE: Matilda Vocabulary Synonym and Antonym Match

A synonym is a word or phrase that means the same as an other word. An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. Connect the vocabulary words in the center column to the corresponding synonym on the right and antonyms on the left. Listen closely during the show to hear these vocabulary words.

Antonyms	Matilda Vocabulary	Synonyms
Obedient	Amateur	Unethical
Expert	Anarchy	Beginner
Honest	Corrupt	Awesome
Clean	Disgusting	Discipline
Regularity	Disdain	Nasty
Perfume	Horde	Smell
Affection	Phenomenon	Experience
Reward	Punishment	Revolt
Few	Rebel	Scorn
Calm	Stench	Crowd

Chaos

CHALLENGE: Matilda Vocabulary Word Search

Can you find the hidden vocabulary words hidden in the word search below?

E	T	P	D	1	S	С	С	Ν	T	A	J	K	L	Ν	M	T	L	D	Amateur
S	K	A	R	L	A	R	A	E	L	Μ	A	9	9	0	T	L	t	E	Anticipation
С	Μ	T	A	D	E	L	1	Ν	T	A	J	K	Z	Ν	L	W	Х	Y	Disgusting
A	Y	H	1	T	H	E	٧	F	R	T	Μ	В	T	E	Κ	L	W	W	Dynamite
P	P	E	И	0	R	L	E	R	S	E	9	R	1	Μ	С	H	A	9	Escapologíst
0	R	T	S	P	E	С	T	A	С	И	L	A	R	0	W	Μ	R	M	Experimentation
L	H	1	И	0	В	A	И	E	Y	R	L	t	K	Ν	L	Y	T	9	Filthy
0	S	С	В	A	E	R	ı	R	Z	0	Ν	A	M	E	R	A	K	E	Foul
9	T	S	0	T	L	l	R	E	E	T	S	A	V	H	D	A	7	Ν	Insubordination
ı	A	H	R	Μ	L	Μ	T	1	L	٧	D	A	T	P	R	и	7	С	Maggot
S	H	В	D	И	1	L	L	В	R	И	0	С	0	E	L	0	R	A	Marvelous
T	Х	H	ı	И	0	E	Υ	S	H	0	В	L	B	1	T	P	E	0	Míracle
Ν	М	9	Ν	И	И	H	1	0	И	T	E	S	+	P	D	J	D	V	Míserable
S	A	W	A	1	T	Ν	9	L	И	В	0	K	+	1	H	Υ	F	E	Newt
K	R	A	T	L	1							Т	S	Υ	И	R	0	R	Overwhelm
A	V	L	ı	D	D								И	A	ı	9	С	W	Pathetíc
С	E	F	0	7	J			И			и				K	w		H	Phenomenon
9	L	H	Ν	М	_	В	Т	1		S	K	1	E	R		E	L	E	Punishment
•	0	E		1				· T				H	0				M		Rebellion
	и			r R				1					A			'	1		Revolting
																			Solemn
Ν.											•	H		Ν.		W		,	Spectacular
L	P	Y		W		·				1	С	1	P	A	T	1	0	Ν	Tadpole
J	K	7	0	1	T	A	T	Ν	E	M	1	R	E	P	Х	E	T	L	Wart

INSPIRE: Revolting Children Who Changed the World

Check out these real-life kids who proved that "even if you're little, you can do a lot"—just like Matilda! Do you have a cause that you're passionate about? Create a poster or flyer with information about your cause, why you're helping, and how others can help, too!



Bana Al-Abed

This 9-year-old from Syria has taken to Twitter to document the siege of Aleppo where she lives with her family. Her tweets depicting airstrikes, hunger, and displacement have garnered her nearly 350,000 followers. She frequently tweets to influential political figures begging for peace in not only Syria, but all over the world.

Sophie Cruz

Born of undocumented parents, Sophie is an advocate for US Immigration reform. When Sophie was just 5-years-old, she fought through crowds and extensive security detail to give her letter to Pope Francis. Her letter asked him to support the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans Act which allows her parents to stay in the United States. Sophie now speaks out against mass deportation and family separation.





Mari Copeny ("Little Miss Flint")

At just 8 years old, Mari Copeny wrote a letter to President Obama asking for his help in Flint, Michigan, where residents have been without clean water since April of 2014. Mari earned the nick name "Little Miss Flint" for her activism and charity in the community. Mari's newest project is an effort to ensure that every student in Flint has school supplies.

Students of Stoneman Douglas High School

In February of 2018, a gunman opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, killing 17 people and injuring many others. Student survivors organized the social media campaign #NeverAgain which demands gun reform. Although the students faced harsh criticism from supporters of the NRA, the group organized the national protest, March For Our Lives, and continues to fight for safer schools and stricter gun laws.





Jazz Jennings

While Jazz was assigned male at birth, she made it clear as soon as she could talk that she was female. At just 5 years old, Jazz began to make the transition from male to female and became the youngest publically documented person to be identified as transgender. Jazz is an LGBTQ+ advocate and author.

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

Xiuhtezcatl is an indigenous hip-hop artist and environmental activist that began songwriting at just 7-years-old. He has spoken before the United Nations three times, urging them to take immediate action against climate change. In 2015, he filed a lawsuit against the US Federal Government arguing that the federal government's inaction on climate change is denying the constitutional right to life.





Malala Yousafzai

Malala grew up in Pakistan and loved attending school, but when the Taliban invaded they banned girls from attending school. At 11-years-old, she became a human rights advocate and wrote for the BBC. At 15, a Taliban gunman shot her on her way home from school. She survived the attack and continues to be an advocate for education, winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

BONUS: Many of the students in the cast of <u>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</u> support important charities, volunteer, and strive to make a difference in their world, too! Read on to learn more about the causes our student cast is passionate about, and check out the entire list on Off Book: https://offbook.childrenstheatre.org/student-actors-making-a-difference-91adfd715fa0



Alejandro Vega

"I feel strongly about combating bullying and making people feel welcome. This is something I am supporting at my school. We recently held a variety show that had this theme running through it. It was nice to use performance to create and support change."



Kate Spence (Big Kid/Ensemble)

"I feel very strongly about bringing attention to climate change and its effects today. As a student, I have done several research projects and presentations to raise awareness with my classmates. Also, I have gone to a few marches and strikes against climate change. I support this cause because it is very important to bring people's attention, especially fellow youth, to something that will heavily affect our world."



Hugo Mullaney (Eric)

"I feel discrimination in the LGBTQ community is an issue. Love is love, go with your inner feelings. Biased opinion shouldn't stop you from loving whomever. I am passionate about this cause, because it's close to my heart. I would like to make a difference. A person shouldn't be defined by a label. We're all capable of change!"

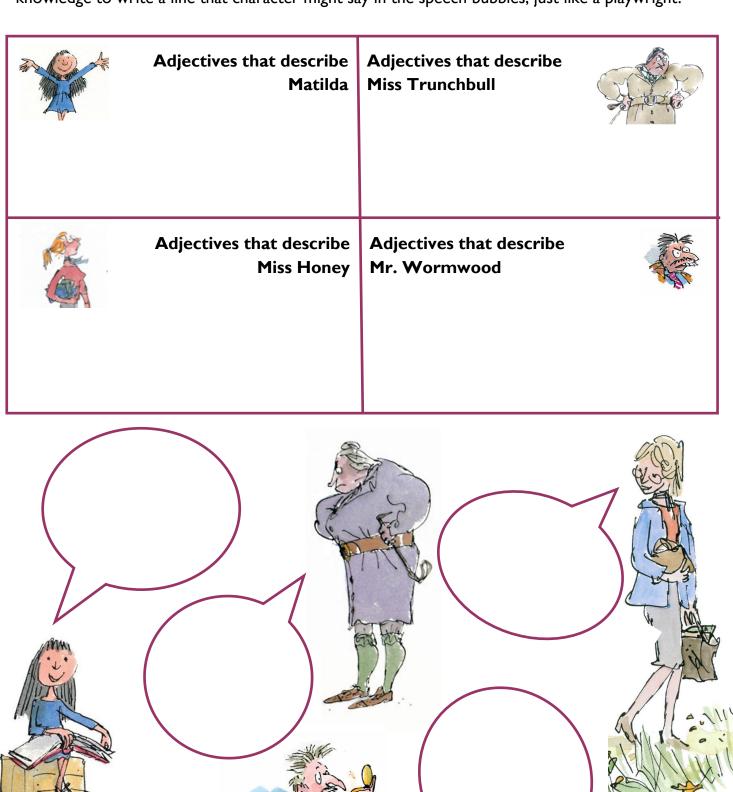


Sofia Salmela (Matilda Wormwood)

"I feel strongly about eating less red meat. It's one small thing that is easy for most and it can make a difference in the warming of the planet and it's healthier for everyone!"

INSPIRE: Character Profiles

List adjectives that you think describe each character in the boxes below. Then, use this knowledge to write a line that character might say in the speech bubbles, just like a playwright!



Musical (you can find the original cast recording linked in the	
"Educate" section!) Create your own version of the song including	
dreams you have for when you grow up.	
When I grow up, I will be tall enough to	
And when I grow up, I will be smart enough to	_
And when I grow up, I will eat	_
everyday on the way to	
and I will every night	
And I will wake up when	
and I will watch	
And I won't care 'cause I'll be all grown up.	
When I grow up, I will be strong enough to	
And when I grow up, I will be brave enough to	

INSPIRE: When I Grow Up...

Listen to the song "When I Grow Up" from Roald Dahl's Matilda The

And I will wake up when the sun comes up and I will spend all day