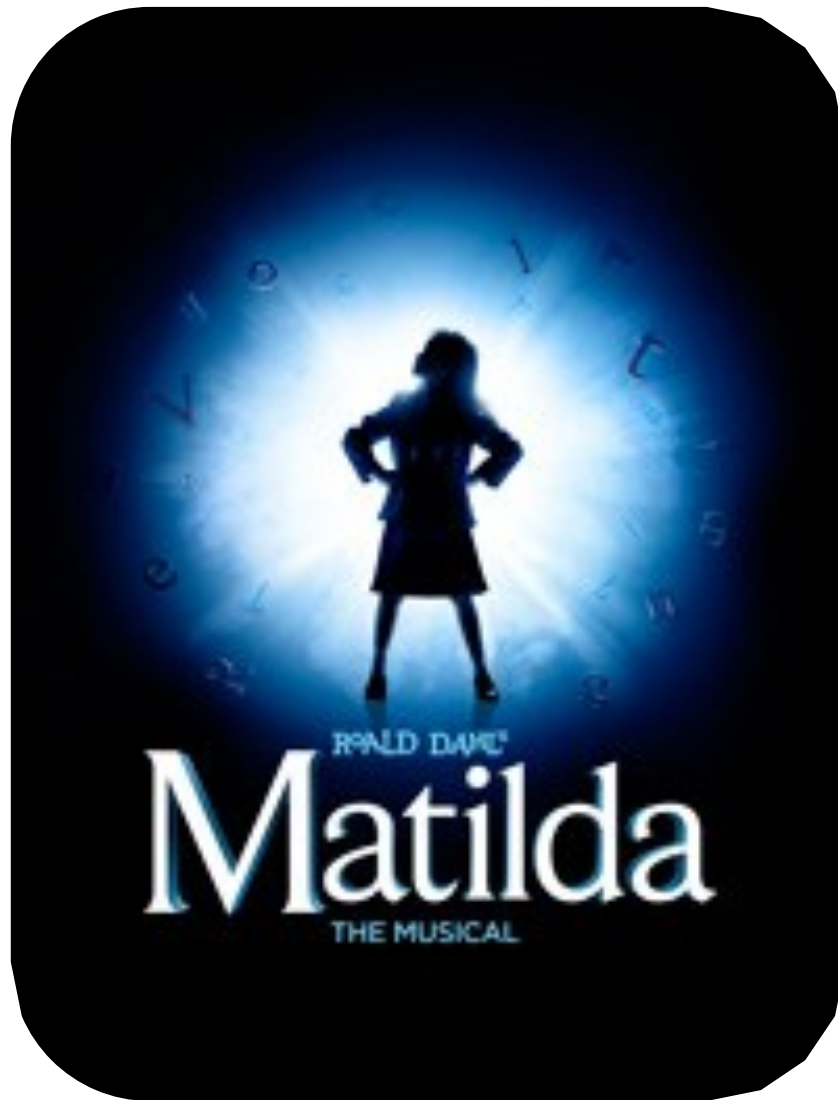




FOUNDED 1809

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

EDUCATION



Study Guide

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Based on the beloved Roald Dahl novel, *Matilda The Musical* is the inspiring story of an extraordinary little girl with an unbounded imagination and incredible courage. She proves that despite the odds, you can do anything you put your mind to— and change your destiny. Packed with high-energy dance and catchy songs, children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by this captivating musical. Celebrate the holiday season with this stupendously fun winner of over 85 international awards, including 16 for Best Musical!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Show

1. What do you think *Matilda* is about?
2. Have you ever read a Roald Dahl book? If so, which one is your favorite?
3. Have you ever seen the film version of *Matilda*? If yes, do you think the musical will be similar?

After the Show

1. What was your favorite song in *Matilda*? Why?
2. How does *Matilda* grow as a character throughout the show?
3. Which character do you relate to the most?



THEATRE 101



PLAYWRIGHT The playwright writes the script.

DIRECTOR The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

COSTUME What the actors wear during the show.

SCENERY Everything on stage (except props) used to represent the place at which action is occurring.

PROPS All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

LIGHTS Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

SOUND Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from actors.

ACTORS The actors are the people that perform the show on-stage.

AUDIENCE The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!

Ever wondered how to put on a play?

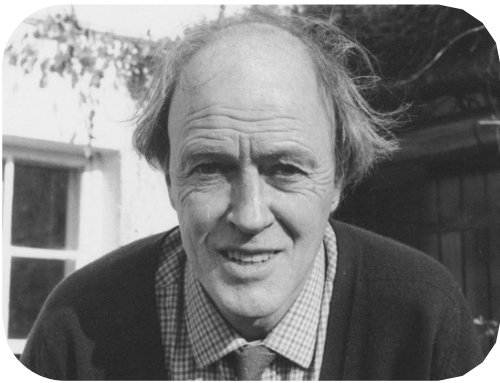
There are many different elements that go into putting a show up on its feet. Please review these terms with your students!

AUDIENCE RULES

- Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- Use better judgement on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- Stay in your seat during the performance.
- Make sure you go to the bathroom *before* the show starts.

THE AUTHOR

Roald Dahl (1916-1990) was the author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *The BFG*, and many more of the world's best-loved children's stories. His work is celebrated annually by the world's biggest author-based event, Roald Dahl Day— which is recognized across the globe on the 13th of September. His first children's story, *James and the Giant Peach*, published in 1961, was a huge hit. Every subsequent book became a best-seller. Today, his stories are available in 59 languages and, by a conservative estimate, he has sold more than 250 million books. Many of these stories have also been adapted for the stage and screen, including the 1971 film classic *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, Wes Anderson's acclaimed *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and the Royal Shakespeare Company's multi-award winning production of *Matilda The Musical*.



“When you’re writing a book, with people in it as opposed to animals, it is no good having people who are ordinary, because they are not going to interest your readers at all.”

-Roald Dahl

ACTIVITY: MY FAVORITE BOOK!

DIRECTIONS:

Imagine that your favorite book has turned into a musical. What would that musical sound like? What would be the title of each song? Fill out your answers below and then share with the class!

Your Favorite Book:

- Style of Music:
- Musical Numbers:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.



ACTIVITY: MY SUPER POWER

DIRECTIONS:

Matilda is able to move things with her mind. If you had a magical power, what would it be? In the space below draw a picture of yourself using your magical power!

“I know you are only a tiny little girl, but there is some kind of magic in you somewhere.”

-Miss Honey in *Matilda*

GROUP ACTIVITY: TABLEAUS

DIRECTIONS:

- Break your students up into groups of four.
- Have each group pick a moment from the show and create a tableau that represents that moment.
- Share each group's tableau with the class and let the class guess which moment is being represented.

DISCUSSION:

- Why did you choose this moment?
- What helped make this moment clear in your tableau?

What's a *tableau*?

A tableau is a frozen picture of a moment in a story without the use of movement or sound.



ACTIVITY: ACT IT OUT!

DIRECTIONS: Act out the scene below with your classmates! Pay close attention to the *italicized* words. They are called **STAGE DIRECTIONS**. Stage directions are used to show you what the actors on stage should be doing while they are speaking!

(HINT: They are not read out loud!)

LAVENDER: Matilda, can I ask you a question? Do all those brains in your head give you a headache? I mean it's got to hurt, all squished in there.

MATILDA: No, it's fine. I think they just... fit.

LAVENDER: Right. Well look, I'd better hang around just in case. If they start to squeeze out of your ears you're going to need help. I'm Lavender. And I think it's probably for the best if we're best friends.

SHE holds her hand out. THEY shake. Suddenly NIGEL runs on, panicked, terrified. He runs one way. Then the other. But neither seems to offer the protection he needs.

NIGEL: Hide me! Someone poured a whole can of treacle onto Trunchbull's chair! She sat down and when she got up her knickers stayed stuck to the seat! Someone told her I did it but I never and now she's after me!

MATILDA: That's not fair! That's not fair at all!

BIG KID: You're done kid. You're finished.

BIG KID: Once Agatha Trunchbull decides you're guilty you are squished.

BIG KID: Yesterday she caught Julius Rottwinkle eating a liquorice all-sort during science. She just picked him up, swung him around and threw him out the window.

MATILDA: Don't listen to them! That didn't happen, they're trying to scare us.

NIGEL: Oh Matilda... they're saying she's going to put me in Chokey.

The BIG KIDS suddenly gasp.

MATILDA: W... what's chokey?

NIGEL: They say it's a cupboard in her office that she throws children into. They say she's lined it with nails and spikes and bits of broken glass...





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WALNUT STREET THEATRE

EDUCATION

BIOGRAPHY

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 36th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 55,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

Last season, 126,718 children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs: including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, our touring outreach program that visits local schools, and our artist in residency programs.



WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Tom Quinn
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Jasmine Hammond
EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE	Stephanie Sintef
EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE	Amanda Pasquini
RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST	Emily Mattison
EDUCATION APPRENTICE	Ali Walker
ACTING APPRENTICE	Katie Raulerson
	Taylor Mitchel
	Kahlil Wyatt
	Blake Lowry

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Walnut Street Theatre Kids Series

<http://walnutstreettheatre.org/season/kids.php>

The Official Roald Dahl Website

<http://www.roalddahl.com/>

US Matilda the Musical Official Website

<http://us.matildathemusical.com/>

MATILDA CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR	Linda Goodrich
CHOREOGRAPHER	Michelle Gaudette
MUSIC DIRECTOR	John Daniels
MUSIC & LYRICS	Tim Minchin
BOOK	Dennis Kelly
BASED ON THE BOOK BY	Roald Dahl

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Walnut Street Theatre

Educational Opportunities!

2018-2019
SEASON

WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

Bring a show to your school!

The Big, Bad Bullysauros
Finding Your People
The Tale of Sasquatch
Freedom Riders

Open a dialogue with students about issues that affect them!

Call 215-574-3550 , ext. 584

Walnut Street Theatre for Kids!

Bring your kids to Walnut Street Theatre!

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (December)
Aladdin Jr.
GOOSEBUMPS: Phantom of the Auditorium
Pinkalicious
Fly Guy

Tickets just \$15-\$18!

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!



The Theatre School at WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Classes for kids, students, and adults!

For students from 5 to 105! Great for networking, providing a creative outlet, and professional training.

Find your inner star at the Walnut!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Let us design a dramatic and educational program for your school!

We support teacher's objectives with personalized programs that meet your needs and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 511

When we PLAY, Learning Happens!