MATILDA MONOLOGUES

****Please select 1 monologue to recite as if in a show (from memory if you can).****

*Remember to know **who you are**, **where you are** and w**ho you are speaking to** and most importantly,*

***what do you want** after your monologue is done.*

Please choose any monologue regardless of the gender! This is about characterization of the lines.

TRUNCHBULL: How dare you? I shall crush you. I shall pound you. I shall dissect you madam. I shall strap you down to a table and perform experiments on you. I shall feed you to the termites, and then I shall squash the termites into tiny fragments. And then I shall crush those tiny fragments into dust. And then I shall take the dust and feed it to the bloodworms. Then the bloodworms, I shall feed to birds and the birds, I shall release into the air and shoot them down with my 12 balled shotgun and so on, and so on, ad infinitum madam, ad infinitum.

MATILDA: And so they prepared themselves for the most dangerous feat that had ever been performed. The great escapologist had to escape from the cage, lean out, catch his wife with one hand, grab a fire extinguisher with the other, and put out the flames on her specially designed dress within twelve seconds, before they reached the dynamite and blew his wife's head off! The trick started well. The moment the specially designed dress was set alight the acrobat swung into the air. The crowd held their breath as she hurled over the sharks and spiky objects – one second, two seconds – they watched as the flames crept up the dress – three seconds, four seconds – she began to reach out her arms towards the cage – five seconds, six seconds – suddenly the padlocks pinged open and the huge chains fell away – seven seconds, eight seconds – the door flung open and the escapologist reached out one huge, muscled arm to catch his wife and the child – nine seconds, ten seconds… eleven seconds—and he grabs her hand and, and, and suddenly the flames are covered in foam before they can both be blown to pieces.
Maybe it was the thought of their child. Maybe it was nerves. But the escapologist used just a touch too much foam and suddenly their hands became slippy… and she fell.
She broke every bone in her body except the ones at the ends of her little fingers. She did manage to live long enough to have their child. But the effort was too great. "Love our little girl" She said "Love our daughter with all your heart. She is all we ever wanted." And then she died.

MATILDA (option 2): And so they prepared themselves for the most dangerous feat that had ever been performed. The great escapologist had to escape from the cage, lean out, catch his wife with one hand, grab a fire extinguisher with the other, and put out the flames on her specially designed dress within twelve seconds, before they reached the dynamite and blew his wife's head off! The trick started well. The moment the specially designed dress was set alight the acrobat swung into the air. The crowd held their breath as she hurled over the sharks and spiky objects… and she fell. She did manage to live long enough to have their child. But the effort was too great. "Love our little girl" She said and then she died.

LAVENDER: Hello. I'm Lavender, by the way. Matilda's best friend. There's a bit coming up that's all about me. Well, not exactly about me, but I play a big part in it. But I'm not gonna say what happens because I don't want to spoil it for you. [pause] Alright, look. What I do is, I volunteer to get the Trunchbull a jug of water, and then ... No! I don't want to tell you any more because I don't want to ruin it! Well, on the way back, I find a newt. A newt is like a really ugly lizard that lives in water. So, I pick it up and ... No! I will not say any more! I'm going to put the new in the Trunchbull's jug! It's going to be brilliant!

BRUCE: Okay, look, I stole the cake. And honestly I was really, definitely, sort of almost thinking about owning up... maybe? But I was having a lot of trouble with my belly. The Trunchbull's cake was so good that I'd scoffed it down too quick and now it was beginning to fight back.

MRS WORMWOOD: Look, is this gonna take much longer, Doctor, I've got a plane to catch at three. I'm competing in the Bi-Annual International Amateur Salsa and Ballroom Dancing Championships in Paris. I always compete, doctor. And this time I have a secret weapon: Rudolpho. He's part Italian, you know. Very supple. Has incredible upper body strength. So? What is it? What's wrong with me? Wind? Am I… Am I… Look, am I fat? What?! But I've got a baby! I don't want another one. Isn't there something you can do…?

MATILDA MONOLOGUES

MR WORMWOOD: Yes, sir. That's right, sir. One hundred and fifty five brand new luxury cars, sir. 'Are they good runners'? Let's put it this way… You wouldn't beat them in a race. No, sir, yes, sir, they are good runners sir, yes, sir, indeed, sir. So, erm... how much, exactly - ? Hang on - I'm gonna call you straight back. Would you please shut up! I'm trying to pull off the biggest business deal of my life and I have to listen to this. It's your fault; you spend us into trouble and you expect me to get us out. What am I, a flaming escapologist?

MISS HONEY: Here we are. Home sweet home. I'm even poorer than most, because of, er, other reasons. You see, I . . . I used to live with my aunt. But one day I was out walking, and I . . . I came across this old shed. I fell completely in love with it. I ran to the farmer and begged him to let me move in. He thought I was mad. But he agreed, and I've lived here ever since. I'm not strong like you, Matilda. You see, my father died when I was young. Magnus was his name. He was very kind. But, er, when he was gone, my aunt became my legal guardian. She was mean and cruel and horrible like you can hardly imagine. And when I got my job as a teacher, she suddenly presented me with a bill for looking after me all those years. She had written everything down: Every tea bag, every electricity bill, every tin of beans. And she made me sign a contract to pay her back every penny. She . . . She even produced a document to say that my father had given her his entire house.

WHO'S WHO CHARACTER INFO

Matilda Wormwood - She's brilliant, resilient, creative, and kind, despite growing up in difficult circumstances. Her parents treat her poorly, but Matilda escapes into a world of books, which puts her reading level far above the other children in her class, and she develops a bit of magical power in an effort to defeat Trunchbull.

Eric - A student at school with Matilda. He has the very first solo line of the entire show. He is expressive and a big supporter of Matilda's charge at school.

Amanda - A student at school with Matilda. Her most featured moment is when Trunchbull throws her through the air using her pigtails. She is sweet, resilient, gentle and eager to please. Her mom says she is a princess and her dad thinks she is brilliant.

Bruce - One of Matilda's schoolmates. He has the bad luck to get caught after eating Trunchbull's cake. Bruce looses himself in the show when Trunchbull punishes him for the cake but he goes through quite a transformation by the end and chooses to not succumb, he becomes the first and loudest voice of all of the Revolting Children.

Hortensia - Alice, Hortensia, and Tommy are classmates of Matilda. Hortensia is aware of how the world can be scary. Hortensia's mom says she is a miracle but is also quick to share the scarier points in life like Trunchbull biting kids. Hortensia is looking for a leader and looking for ways to support the fight for a better school. Hortensia is an eager learner and a willing participator in all of the classroom experiences.

Alice - Alice, Hortensia, and Tommy are classmates of Matilda. Alice says her mom thinks she is an angel but is very excited to be naughty when the idea is presented. Alice looking for a leader and looking for ways to support the fight for a better school. Alice is an eager learner and a willing participator in all of the classroom experiences.

Tommy - Alice, Hortensia, and Tommy are classmates of Matilda. Tommy is a bit squeamish but excited to join in the fight of Revolting Children when more people join… just maybe not the first to step up.

Lavender - One of the kids at school with Matilda. She is kind and bright and quickly decides that Matilda is her best friend. Lavender is no-nonsense, does what she thinks is right and is just looking for someone who shares in her boldness. Sometimes she needs to bring a stuffy or a newt to school for companionship.

MATILDA MONOLOGUES

Nigel - One of the kids at school with Matilda. He is enthusiastic, sweet, and always in a bit of a panic. Parents call him a special little solider and he has very big outbursts that are fuelled by his passion. He very well might burst a blood-vessel if he doesn't let the things out, but he is trying really hard.

Mr. Wormwood - Matilda's father. He is egotistical, rude, and not very bright, not to mention a liar. Though Mr. Wormwood struggles with being a good person and he is confused by Matilda's choices which differ from his own, his harebrained schemes can be hilariously funny and he does have a tiny little heart for his 'boy' Matilda.

Mrs. Wormwood - Matilda's mother. Like her husband, she is inconvenienced by Matilda and does not understand why her daughter loves to read. Mrs. Wormwood is obsessed with her own job, her person, and believes everything she sees on TV. Her dancing lessons with Rudolpho are the most important part of her day. She has no problem taking up space.

Michael - Matilda's brother. Michael is the apple of his father's eye with a hard focus on television and 1-word-answers. Michael has the ability to sit and blend with his family which is why his dad and mom and him work so well together.

Mrs. Phelps - The kindly librarian who loves hearing Matilda's stories. Phelps is fuelled by stories and takes a genuine interest in Matilda and recognizes that her support comes from fostering Matilda's love in books.

Escapologist - A character of Matilda's creation. Everything this character could be seen as grand and exaggerated but it is in service of the story and their partner, the acrobat. They are passionate, and deeply invested in the love that they have for what they do and who they do it with.

Acrobat - A product of Matilda's imagination. Acrobat is in service of the story and their partner, the Escapologist. They are passionate, and deeply invested in the love that they have for what they do and who they do it with. And when a new being comes into their life, their world grows to now have a new love for them as well.

Miss Honey - A teacher at Matilda's school. She is kind, is generous, and really cares about the children despite her own desperate circumstances. Honey is able to find what each student needs in the classroom but at the beginning of the play, is not able to confront what she truly needs. By the end of the play Honey's growth comes from seeing the way the children take charge of their own lives and she finally stands up to her own bully.

Agatha Trunchbull - The quintessential terrifying tyrant. As headmistress, she runs her school like a dictator, making up arbitrary rules to suit her every whim and dreaming up creative punishments. Trunchbull is unapologetically larger than life and has been the main-character in their story from day 1. Even if that means crushing a few people along the way (especially little children).

Rudolpho - Mrs. Wormwood's self-obsessed dance teacher. Fuelled by the passion of DANCE with a capital D.

Sergei - A customer swindled by Mr. Wormwood. Though he shows up looking for payback, Matilda has had quite enough of revenge, and Sergei lets the Wormwoods escape. This character does speak Russian in the script. We have a Russian speaker that will help support the learning along with recordings of the lines slowed down and spoken and a phonetic pronunciation.

Ensemble - Ensemble roles include Russians, Little Kids, Big Kids (including Big Kid 1, Big Kid 2, and Big Kid 3), Kids, Mums, Dads, the Cook, and the Mechanic and many more!sdr