

MATILDA (Page 28, 91):

Miss Honey:

So Matilda, you can read words? (This monologue will start with Miss Honey's sentence)

Well, I needed to learn to read words so that I could read sentences because basically a sentence is just a big bunch of words. And if you can't read sentences, you've got no chance with books.

(Concentrates. Silence. The glass tips over. Miss Honey jumps.)

I moved it with my eyes. Am I strange? What do you think it is? This thing with my eyes? (Beat.)

You mean, there's no room in my head for all my brains, so they have to squish out through my eyes? (Beat.)

Oh yeah. He's always saying, "Matilda, I am very proud to have a daughter as..." (Beat.)

That's not true, Miss Honey. He's not proud at all. He calls me a liar and a cheat and a nasty little creep.

MRS PHELPS (Page 17, 62):

Matilda! What a pleasure to see you here in the library again. Your parents must be so proud to have a girl as clever as you. And do you tell them lots of stories like you tell me? Oh, I love your stories, Matilda.

That's a hint, by the way.

Hooray! So the story does have a happy ending? (Beat).

Worse? Oh, no, Matilda, they can't get worse! Let's call the police!

MISS HONEY (Page 92):

I'm not strong like you, Matilda. My father died when I was young. Magnus was his name and he was very kind. But when he was gone, my aunt became my legal guardian. (Beat). She was mean and cruel like you can hardly imagine. And then, when I got my job as a teacher, she presented me with a bill for looking after me all those years. And she made me sign a contract to pay her back every penny. She even produced a document that said my father had given her his entire house.

AGATHA TRUNCHBULL (Page 59,60):

SILENCE! (Beat).

Oh, that's alright, Jenny. We all get carried away sometimes. Even me. Well done, Bogtrotter. Good show. Well? Come along, Bogtrotter. Oh, did I not mention? That was the first part of your punishment. There's more, the second part. And the second part is... chokey! (Beat).

Do you think I would allow myself to be defeated by these maggots? Did you? Who do you think I am, Miss Honey? A weakling, an idiot? You?

BRUCE or NIGEL or MICHAEL (Page 52):

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. (Beat).

(His belly rumbles.) A huge cloud of chocolaty gas wafted from my mouth and drifted full into the face of the Trunchbull.

MR WORMWOOD (Page 74):

One hundred and fifty-five old bangers on my hands. How could I possibly make the mileage go back? I couldn't very well drive each one backwards, could I? (Beat.) When suddenly, I had the most genius idea in the world! I grabbed a drill, and using my incredible mind, I attached the drill to the speedometer of the first car, turned it on and whacked it into reverse. Exactly! Within a few minutes I had reduced the mileage to practically nothing.

MRS WORMWOOD (Page 10,11):

Look at this, she's reading a book. That's not normal for a five-year-old. I think she might be an idiot. And she keeps trying to tell me stories, Harry. It's not normal for a girl to be all thinking- (Beat.)

What about me then? I've got a whole house to look after, dinners don't microwave themselves, you know! If you're an escapologist, I am off to bleach my roots, and I shan't be talking to you for the rest of the evening.

LAVENDER OR AMANDA (Page 40, 41):

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. (Beat). Well, look, I'd better hang around just in case they start to squeeze out of your ears. (Beat). I'm Lavender. I think it's probably for the best that we're friends.

SERGEI with a Russian accent. (Page 102):

Where is your father? The Wormwood is a stupid man. And assumed I was stupid too. And that is a very, very, stupid — and rude — thing to do. (Beat). You seem smart. Sadly, in my line of work I don't often get to meet smart people like you. Most of the people I deal with, their thinking is all backwards. (Beat). Your father is very, very, lucky to have you as his daughter.

ESCOPOLOGIST OR ACROBAT (Page 61,76):

First, I escape from the cage, lean out, catch you with one hand, grab a fire extinguisher with the other, and put out the flames on your specially designed dress before they reach the dynamite and blow your head off! (Beat).

Have I been so wrapped up in my grief for my wife that I have forgotten the one thing that mattered to us most? I love you so much, I shall spend the rest of my life making it up to you. (Beat.) Bullying children is her game, is it? Then let us see what she can do when the wrath of a grown man stands before her!

P.S.

(Beat.) A change of thought. No need to say it.

Eric/Tommy can learn Bruce's monologue.

Hortensia/Alice can learn Lavender's monologue.

Cook/Mechanic/Rudolpho does not need to learn monologues.