

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understand a poem (Matilda)

- 1) _____ wrote the poem.
- 2) The two main characters are _____
- 3) Matilda phoned _____
- 4) Matilda's aunt went to _____
- 5) In the end Matilda and the house _____
- 6) People did not believe Matilda when she shouted to tell them about the real fire because _____
- 7) A pair of words that rhyme are _____
- 8) That Matilda screamed and bawled tells me that she spoke _____
- 9) The author is trying to teach us _____
- 10) A time when I / one of my friends got into trouble for lying like Matilda did was when _____

Date

Understand a poem (Matilda)

- 1) Who wrote the poem?
- 2) Who are the two main characters in the poem?
- 3) Who did Matilda phone?
- 4) Where did Matilda's aunt go 'a few weeks later'?
- 5) What happened to Matilda and the house in the end?
- 6) Why did the people not believe Matilda when she shouted to tell them about the real fire?
- 7) Find a pair of words that rhyme.
- 8) The 10th line from the end says 'You should have heard her Scream and Bawl'. What do 'Scream' and 'Bawl' tell you about how Matilda spoke?
- 9) What lesson is the author trying to teach us?
- 10) Can you think of a time when you or one of your friends has got into trouble for lying like Matilda did?

Answers - Lower ability

- 1) Hilaire Belloc (AF2)
- 2) Matilda and her Aunt (AF2)
- 3) The Fire Brigade (AF2)
- 4) To the theatre (AF2)
- 5) They were burned down (AF2)
- 6) Because she had lied before about their being a fire (AF3)
- 7) Any pair of rhyming words (AF4)
- 8) That Matilda shouted very loudly / that she was scared (AF5)
- 9) Not to tell lies (AF6)
- 10) Any time when you have lied and got in trouble for it (AF7)

Brackets at the end refer to the AF focus, as given in the APP reading levels grids

Answers - Middle ability

Same answers as for lower ability, but should be writing in full sentences independently without being given a writing frame / fill in the blanks sheet

Date

Understand a poem (Matilda)

- 1) Which city is the poem set in?
- 2) Where was Matilda's Aunt when the real fire happened?
- 3) What did people say to Matilda when they heard her shout 'Fire!'?
- 4) Why did Matilda '**tiptoe**' to the phone to call the Fire Brigade?
- 5) Do you think the people were right to ignore Matilda when she asked for help? Explain your answer (use because).
- 6) How do you think the fire fighters felt (the first time Matilda called them) when they found out that there was no fire? Explain your answer (use because).
- 7) The author could have split the poem in to different verses between line 30 (To get the Men to go away!) and line 31 (It happened that a few weeks later). Why might this have been a good place to split the poem in to two verses?
- 8) How can you tell from looking at the poem that it is a poem and not another type of text, like a story or a report?
- 9) Why is 'galloped' a good word to describe how the Fire Brigade travelled to Matilda's house?
- 10) Find and copy the lines that contain a semi-colon.
- 11) What is the moral of the poem?
- 12) Which two lines of the poem would have been different if the poem was set in a different city? Explain your answer (use because).

Answers - Higher ability

- 1) London (AF2)
- 2) At the theatre (AF2)
- 3) 'Little Liar!' (AF2)
- 4) Because she did not want to make any noise / she did not want her Aunt to hear her (AF3)
- 5) Yes because she had lied about there being a fire before
No because they should have helped her because she was in danger (AF3)
- 6) Angry because they had come to the house for no reason / there might have been a fire somewhere else while they were at Matilda's house (AF3)
- 7) Because there is a break of a few weeks between these lines / line 30 is the end of the first part of the poem where Matilda lies (AF4)
- 8) It is written in 'lines', without full sentences and each line going to the edge of the page (AF4)
- 9) 'Galopped' shows that the Fire Brigade travelled quickly (AF5)
- 10) It made one Gasp and Stretch one's eyes;
In showing them they were not needed; (AF5)
- 11) Don't tell lies (AF6)
- 12) 'Of London's Noble Fire Brigade' and 'From Putney, Hackney Downs and Bow' because these are places in London (AF7)

Brackets at the end refer to the AF focus, as given in the APP reading levels grids

Date

Understand a poem (Matilda)

- 1) What was the name of the play that Matilda's Aunt went to see?
- 2) Did lots of fire engines come to Matilda's house or only a couple? Explain your answer (use because).
- 3) Did Matilda's Aunt lie when she was a child? Explain your answer (use because).
- 4) Why were the fire fighters' 'Hearts a-glow'?
- 5) Do you think Matilda lived on the ground floor?
- 6) Was Matilda's Aunt wealthy? Explain your answer (use because).
- 7) If you were to split the poem into two verses, which two lines would you split it between?
- 8) What has the author done with some words to encourage you to read those words with emphasis? Give two examples.
- 9) Give a synonym (word that means the same thing) for 'Bawl'.
- 10) Find and copy a line with a semi-colon and a line with a hyphen.
- 11) Do you think Hilaire Belloc would really like to see all lying children be burnt to death? Explain your answer (use because).
- 12) How are this poem and the story of 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' similar?
- 13) Which two lines of the poem would be different if it was set in a different city?
- 14) Why might Matilda have had to go and live with her Aunt?

Answers - Gifted and Talented

- 1) The Second Mrs Tanqueray (AF2)
- 2) Lots because they were 'pouring in on every hand' and came from three different places (AF3)
- 3) No because 'from her Earliest Youth' she had 'kept a strict regard for the truth' (AF3)
- 4) Because they were happy to be going to fight a fire (AF3)
- 5) No because she would have been able to jump out of the building if she lived on the ground floor (AF3)
- 6) She was wealthy because she lived had a Ball Room / large house (AF3)
- 7) Between line 30 (To get the Men to go away!) and line 31 (It happened that a few weeks later) because there is a break of a few weeks between these lines / line 30 is the end of the first part of the poem where Matilda lies (AF4)
- 8) Given them capital letters. Any example that is not a word from the start of a line or a name (AF4)
- 9) Howl / wail / roar / bellow / cry / shout etc (AF5)
- 10) It made one Gasp and Stretch one's eyes;
In showing them they were not needed;
That night a Fire did break out -
To People passing in the Street -
Their confidence)-but all in vain (AF5)
- 11) No, because she just wrote this poem to teach children not to lie (AF6)
- 12) In both stories the character who lies about a danger ends up dying because of their lie (AF7)
- 13) 'Of London's Noble Fire Brigade' and 'From Putney, Hackney Downs and Bow' because these are places in London (AF7)
- 14) Because her parents had died / moved away / were too poor to look after her (AF7)