

# **BOOK REVIEW OF *MATILDA* WRITTEN BY ROALD DAHL**

A FINAL PROJECT

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that this final project is compiled by herself without taking the result from other researches in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and diploma. The writer also ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the reference mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, June 2011

Farakh Wilda Rakhmawati

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

Life is like a book. The front cover is about the birth date and the back is the death date. Every page of the book is the day in the human life. There is a thick book and there is a thin one, but, how disheveled the front page, always there is a new page after, clean and white. Ya! Just like our life, how bad our last behavior, Allah always gives us a new day, a chance to do our best! (Anon)

*This final project is dedicated to my beloved family and my close friends.*

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This final project is still far from perfection, so the writer accepts any criticism and suggestion from the reader to make this work better. Finally, the writer hopes that this final project could give some useful information to the readers.

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## ABSTRAK

Novel adalah refleksi dari kebudayaan manusia. Novel identik dengan sebuah karya sastra yang berbentuk prosa yang cukup panjang, dan cenderung fiktif. Sebuah novel tersusun berdasarkan unsur-unsur pembangun seperti unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Novel yang penulis ulas pada final project ini berjudul *Matilda* karangan penulis cerita anak-anak terkenal dari Inggris, Roald Dahl. Dahl terkenal karena karyanya yang imajinatif dan alur yang, menurut pendapat penulis, sulit ditebak. *Matilda*, menurut penulis, adalah novel imajiner dengan tema yang ringan. Cocok dibaca untuk semua golongan usia. Namun, pada novel ini Dahl banyak menggunakan hiperbola dalam melukiskan jalan ceritanya. Alasan inilah yang mendasari penulis untuk mengulas salah satu novel dari Roald Dahl, yaitu *Matilda*.

*Matilda* tergolong novel populer karena ceritanya mudah dipahami dan pengarang tidak berbelit-belit dalam menyampaikan cerita. Karena novel ini diperuntukkan bagi anak-anak, cerita yang dihadirkan mengikuti selera serta imajinasi pengarang, tidak rumit dan berkembang dengan sederhana sesuai dengan logika anak-anak.

Resensi ini bertujuan untuk memberikan gambaran secara umum mengenai isi sebuah novel. Dalam meresensi sebuah novel, penting adanya sebuah ulasan mengenai unsur intrinsik seperti tema, alur, latar, penokohan, perwatakan, amanat, dan sudut pandang serta unsur ekstrinsik yang berupa faktor sosial dan psikologis pengarang yang sangat mempengaruhi gaya seorang pengarang dalam menyampaikan suatu kisah. Peresensi hanya menunjukkan gambaran umumnya dan pembacalah yang kemudian memberikan penilaian mengenai kualitas sebuah novel.

Project ini memberikan sedikit ulasan tentang kelebihan dan kelemahan *Matilda* yang disertai dengan biografi singkat pengarangnya. Melalui resensi ini, pembaca dapat memahami sekilas tentang isi dari novel *Matilda* beserta pengarang dan beberapa karyanya.

# ‘CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. BACKGROUND OF THE WRITING

A novel entitled *Matilda*, written by Roald Dahl in 1988, is an imaginative and amusing novel. This book is about a six years old genius Matilda, who tries to live between her despicable parents and headmistress. It is a simple but very interesting theme. Adults, children, and teenagers will love it. However, parents should take notes that children are not allowed to read it alone due to the existence of many rude words and violations in this book which might be imitated by them.

*Matilda*, is republished by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama Jakarta in September 1991. It is translated by Agus Setiadi. The original one was first copyrighted in 1988 with the same title. The ISBN number is 979-511-167-1.

Having 264 pages, 14 cm width and 20 cm length, this book could not be considered as a pocket one due to its thickness and size. It consist of 21 chapters, one page of the translator’s preface, and one last page for the author’s details. The special feature of this book is the illustration. This book is complemented for its attractive visualization, illustrated by Quentin Blake. Pink and blue, cheerful colors that children like the most, dominate the cover color. However, it is a little bit difficult to find *Matilda* in book stores because this book is no longer printed at present. If we want to have the book, we should order it in the book stores or buy it via internet.

### B. PURPOSE OF THE WRITING

This book is chosen to analyze because the author wants to remind parents to be wiser in nurturing their children. This novel will teach them not to underestimate children’s capability because it could break their confidence.

Also, the author would like to warn parents to accompany their kids while reading this book. The good things and the bad things will easily be absorbed by children. Parental control will help them sort the bad things of the characters.

### C. AUTHOR’S REVIEW AND HIS WORKS

Roald Dahl was a British novelist, short story writer, fighter pilot, and screenwriter. He was born in Llandaff, Wales on 1916, to Norwegian parents. He studied in Repton before serving in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. Dahl rose to prominence in the 1940s with works for both children and adults, and he became one of the world’s bestselling authors. All of his books for children become the best sellers. He has been referred to as "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century". In 2008 *The Times* placed Dahl sixteenth on its list of "The 50 greatest British Writers since 1945".

Some of his notable works include *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Matilda*, *The Witches*, *The Big Friendly Giant*, *The Enormous Crocodile*, and *the BFG*. Dahl passed away in 1990 (Dahl: 262).

## CHAPTER II

# SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

It seems like the Wormwoods do not fully understand that their only daughter is incredibly gifted. Matilda is a genius. Poor Matilda has to live with an overbearing family who does not care in her specialty. The Wormwood is a kind of family who loves dinner in front of the television at night than reading books. Matilda, however, acts differently. She loves book. She was able to read since she was three, without any parental support.

Mr. Wormwood is a used car salesman, a very tricky one. Matilda's mother, Mrs. Wormwood, is a kind of woman who likes to play bingo for hours instead of cooking for her family. Michael Wormwood, Matilda's older brother, has average cleverness. However, their parents consider that he is smarter than her sister.

Both Matilda and her parents share no love to each other. As a little kid, she is neglected. She never gets any appreciation and affection from her mom and dad even though other people know that she is special.

Matilda Wormwood, a remarkably bright little girl, have taught herself to read at the age of three. The only book she could read in her house is just *Easy Cooking*. In her four years old of age, she has read all of the library collection of children books! Before she gets five, she has read many books from many outstanding authors.

Her parents send Matilda to *Crunchem Hall Primary School* when she is five-and-a-half years old, a little bit late. She quickly learns that her headmistress, the terrifying Miss Trunchbull, is even crueller and unfair than her own parents. She always hates children more than anything. Miss Trunchbull will punish her students in a terrific way. Her behavior toward the students can be considered as an abuse.

Matilda's teacher is Miss Trunchbull's niece, Jennifer Honey. She is a sweet, smart and kind teacher. She has a warm personality as well. She becomes Matilda's best friend afterwards.

Later on, Matilda finds out that she has an unknown magical power to move things every time she gets very angry. She just stares at a thing and keeps concentration, then it will be in motion.

At the end of this story, Matilda uses her supernatural power to punish Miss Trunchbull and helps Miss Honey get rid of Trunchbull's foul. At the same time, Mr. Wormwood's selling tricks have been known by the local police. She eventually lives with Miss Honey after her parents decides to move abroad to avoid the police.