Matilda - The Ghost

Overview

Learning objective
• To develop skills in sensory description and empathetic writing.

Learning outcome
• To create a composition on the events of Chapter 4 from the point of view of the parrot.

Book reference
• Chapter 4: The Ghost.

Cross-curricular link
• Literacy, Drama, PSHE.

Resources
• Thesauri, blindfolds, a chair for the hotseat.

Starter

• The children go outside and close eyes or wear blindfolds.
• In pairs, the children describe what they can hear, smell and touch.
• Go back inside and create a class mindmap of the experience.
Read the fourth chapter of *Matilda*, The Ghost.

Children find evidence from the text that shows how the parrot may be feeling.

One child volunteers to be the parrot and comes to sit in the hotseat. The rest of the class asks questions to the parrot, for example:

- What was in your mind when you were in the chimney?
- As you were stuck in the chimney, you couldn’t see anything. What could you hear, smell, taste, touch?
- Can you say more than “Hullo, hullo, hullo” and “Rattle my bones”? If so, why didn’t you say other things?
- How did you feel when Matilda finally took you out of the chimney?
- What do you think of Fred, Matilda, Matilda’s family?

Ask the class for a volunteer to be a parrot with a completely different personality. Repeat the hot seating exercise.
Group or independent activity

• Independently, the children write a piece from the point of view of the parrot. They should avoid rewriting the chapter and rather focus on the experience of being in the chimney.
• Use the questions above as guidelines.
• Use thesauri to widen vocabulary.

Plenary

• Individuals read their compositions aloud to the class.

Other activities

• In groups, the children act out the scene between Matilda, Matilda’s family, and the voice of the parrot.
• In groups, create a freeze frame of a scene from the chapter. One by one, each character, including the parrot, melts and speaks their innermost thoughts.
• Learn about suspense, climax and anti-climax. Explore how the scene is an example of anti-climax.