Before you read the chapters:

The protagonist in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *Matilda* is a very likeable girl, Matilda. Think back on some of your favourite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting protagonist?

You are required to write a SHORT summary of each chapter. This summary needs to contain all the important information, but it is not intended for you to repeat it word for word. Short, sweet and to the point.

Summary of Chapter One.

Summary of Chapter Two.

Summary of Chapter Three.

Vocabulary:

The following words appear in the first few chapters of this book. You are to write a definition for each word AND use it in a sentence to prove you understand the word.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| adoration | appalling | astonishing | boast |
| chaos | eccentricities | epicure | formidable |
| genius | ghastly | horrendous | ignorant |
| masculine | obstinate | prodigy | tyrannical |
| vigorous |  |  |  |

Questions:

Describe the setting of the story as Chapter One begins.

What do parents often do with their children that many people find so revolting?

How did Matilda’s father use sawdust in order to trick his customers?

How did Matilda’s father manage to turn back the mileage in the cars he sold?

What trick did Matilda play on her father because he was cheating his customers?

Explain why Mrs. Phelps is so fascinated with Matilda?

Matilda resents her parents, why?

Mr. Wormwood becomes angry with Mrs. Wormwood where the hat is concerned. Why?

Language Activities:

The author seems to enjoy using alliteration, a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here’s an example “…grousing, grouching, grumbling griping about something or other.”

Using your imagination create your own examples of alliteration from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

a) The purr of a kitten.

b) Someone using a typewriter.

c) A lion roaring.

A simile is a comparison using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’. An example from Chapter One is “…where the inner band had stuck to the hair all around the sides and back, she had to chop the hair right off right to the skin so that he finished up with a bald white ring round his head, like some sort of monk.”

What two things are being compared in this example?

Invent your own similes comparing the following items with something from your own imagination.

1. a car speeding away from a traffic light
2. a man kicking a soccer ball

Why do you think that the author uses literary devices such as alliteration in their writing, why?