

**BIG KID 1:** Why? Why?  
Didn't you hear what we said?

94 **BIG KIDS:**

Just you wait for Phys -

97 **Ed...** **Z**

Just you wait for Phys

99 **ALL:**

A B C D E F G, H I J K L M N O

100 **LITTLE KIDS:**

P, Q R S, T U V, W \_ X... Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y? \_

(School bell rings.)

102 **ALL:**

Just you wait for Phys-ZED!

*START*

*(The BIG KIDS exit, the LITTLE KIDS form a classroom. MISS HONEY enters. At the front of the board is a chalk board, with "I can now read words" written on it.)*

**MISS HONEY**

Good morning children. My name is Miss Honey. And today is a very special day: your first day at school. Now, can anyone read this?

*(MISS HONEY underlines I can now read words.)*

*(NIGEL, MATILDA, and LAVENDER raise their hands.)*

**NIGEL**

Me, me, me, oooh, oooh, me, pick me miss, I can, mememememe—

**MISS HONEY**

Very well, Nigel.

*(NIGEL opens his mouth to speak, but nothing comes out.)*

Yes, I think we'd better leave it there, Nigel, we don't want you to burst a blood vessel on your first day.

*(NIGEL droops on his desk.)*

Lavender?

**LAVENDER**

Is the first word... tomato?

**MISS HONEY**

Um, no. But tomato is a very good word.

**LAVENDER**

Yessss!

**MISS HONEY**

Matilda?

**MATILDA**

I can now read words.

**MISS HONEY**

So Matilda, you can read words?

**MATILDA**

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.

**MISS HONEY**

And... have you read a whole book yourself?

**MATILDA**

More than one. I love books. Last week I read quite a few.

**MISS HONEY**

A few? What books did you read?

**(#9 – MATILDA'S BOOKS/PATHETIC INTRO begins.)**

**MATILDA**

*Nicholas Nickleby, Oliver Twist, Jane Eyre, The Lord of the Rings, Crime and Punishment, and... and The Cat In The Hat.*

*(MISS HONEY stares, open mouthed. The bell sounds. The KIDS exit.)*

*(MISS HONEY crosses to Trunchbull's door. She starts to knock... but hesitates.)*

**MISS HONEY**

Don't be pathetic. Just knock on the door—

*(MISS HONEY knocks.)*

**TRUNCHBULL**

Enter!

*(MISS HONEY doesn't move.)*

Well don't just stand there like a wet tissue, get on with it.

**MISS HONEY**

Miss Trunchbull there's, in, in, in my class there is a little girl called Matilda Wormwood—

**TRUNCHBULL**

Daughter of Mr. Harry Wormwood who owns Wormwood Motors. Excellent man. Told me to watch out for the brat, though, says she's a real wart.

**MISS HONEY**

Oh no, Headmistress, I don't think Matilda is that kind of child at all.

**TRUNCHBULL**

What is the school motto, Miss Honey?

**MISS HONEY**

Bambinatum est maggitum.  
*[bahm-bi-nah-tum ehst mahgi-tum]*

**TRUNCHBULL**

Bambinatum est maggitum. Children are maggots. In fact it must have been her who put that stink bomb under my desk this morning. I'll have her for that. Thank you for suggesting it.

**MISS HONEY**

But I didn't... Miss Trunchbull; Matilda Wormwood is a genius.

**TRUNCHBULL**

Nonsense!

**MISS HONEY**

Headmistress, it is my opinion that this little girl should be placed with the eleven-year-olds.

**TRUNCHBULL**

We cannot just "place her in with the eleven-year-olds!" What kind of society would that be? What about rules, Honey, rules?

**MISS HONEY**

I believe that Matilda Wormwood is an exception to the rules.

**TRUNCHBULL**

An exception?

(#10 - THE HAMMER begins.)

~~\*~~  
End  
Scene

**THE HAMMER**

(TRUNCHBULL:) To the rules? In my school?

Quirky, not too fast

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(TRUNCHBULL:)

