

# Marlborough Primary Academy

Class 4/5B

#### Home Learning

Date 25/01/21

# Daily activities - 5 a-day!

- 1) TTRockstars 20 minutes
- 2) Morning maths 15 minutes
- 3) Independent Reading 30 minutes
  - 4) Spelling 20 minutes
  - 5) P.E. Joe Wicks workout

ENGLISH WALT: visualise a story
Today we will start our new English block
by reading chapter one of The Lion, The
Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis.

Join us at 10:30 for a zoom lesson.

If you can't join us then you can find the text by following this link:

https://newheadway.weebly.com/uploads/4/3/3/6/43369237/388453\_1411397848.pdf

#### MATHS

WALT: Recap multiplying 2 digits by I digit Watch the video then have a go at the work in the booklet.

# https://vimeo.com/486774671

There will be a class maths zoom at 9:30. Please watch the video and do your morning maths first.

#### Reading:

Our reading for this week can be found at the end of the booklet.

It is an extract from the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl.

Read and enjoy the extract and/or join the zoom where I will be reading Matilda every day.

# This is morning maths

Solve these problems using written or mental methods.

If you get stuck send me a dojo message!

| 499 + 8256    | 3 x 5 x 4 | Round 674 to the nearest 10.   |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 578 - ? = 280 | 70 ÷ 2    | Find 1/3 of 21 Find 1/3 of 210 |

You may find this useful to help with your maths this week. If you know your times tables, you won't need it!

| ×  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 2  | 2  | 4  | 6  | 8  | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18  | 20  | 22  | 24  |
| 3  | 3  | 6  | 9  | 12 | 15 | 18 | 21 | 24 | 27  | 30  | 33  | 36  |
| 4  | 4  | 8  | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36  | 40  | 44  | 48  |
| 5  | 5  | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45  | 50  | 55  | 60  |
| 6  | 6  | 12 | 18 | 24 | 30 | 36 | 42 | 48 | 54  | 60  | 66  | 72  |
| 7  | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 | 35 | 42 | 49 | 56 | 63  | 70  | 77  | 84  |
| 8  | 8  | 16 | 24 | 32 | 40 | 48 | 56 | 64 | 72  | 80  | 88  | 96  |
| 9  | 9  | 18 | 27 | 36 | 45 | 54 | 63 | 72 | 81  | 90  | 99  | 108 |
| 10 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90  | 100 | 110 | 120 |
| 11 | 11 | 22 | 33 | 44 | 55 | 66 | 77 | 88 | 99  | 110 | 121 | 132 |
| 12 | 12 | 24 | 36 | 48 | 60 | 72 | 84 | 96 | 108 | 120 | 132 | 144 |

Multiplication Chart 1-12 Brett uses a place value chart to work out  $5 \times 32$ 

| Hundreds | Tens     | Ones |  |  |  |
|----------|----------|------|--|--|--|
|          | 000      |      |  |  |  |
|          | 0000     | 00   |  |  |  |
|          | 0000     | 00   |  |  |  |
|          | 10 10 10 | 10   |  |  |  |
|          | 10 10 10 | 10   |  |  |  |
| 100      |          |      |  |  |  |

Talk about Brett's method with a partner.

Work out the multiplication.

 $5 \times 32$ 

Use Brett's method to work out 6 x 34

2 Rosie works out 4 × 37 using a written method.

|   | Н | Т | 0 |    |    |   |    |  |
|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|--|
|   |   | 3 | 7 |    |    |   |    |  |
| × |   |   | 4 |    |    |   |    |  |
|   |   | 2 | 8 |    | (7 | X | 4) |  |
|   | 1 | 2 | 0 | (3 | 0  | Х | 4) |  |
|   | 1 | 4 | 8 |    |    |   |    |  |
|   |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |  |

Talk about Rosie's method with a partner.

Use Rosie's method to work out 6 x 28

Dani uses a different written method to work out 8 × 42

|   | Н | Т | 0 |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |   | 4 | 2 |  |
| × |   |   | 8 |  |
|   | 3 | 3 | 6 |  |
|   |   | 1 |   |  |

Talk about Dani's method with a partner.

Use Dani's method to work out  $3 \times 27$ 

Use a written method to complete the multiplications.

Class 4 is selling tickets for a play.

Tickets cost £5 per person.

56 tickets have been sold so far.

How much money has Class 4 collected?

Rosie buys 8 bunches of flowers. Each bunch has 17 flowers. How many flowers does she have altogether?



### Marlborough Primary Academy

Class 4/5B

Home Learning

Date 26/01/21

# Daily activities - 5 a-day!

- 1) TTRockstars 20 minutes
- 2) Morning maths 15 minutes
- 3) Independent Reading 30 minutes
  - 4) Spelling 20 minutes
  - 5) P.E. Joe Wicks workout

Don't forget to share your work in your portfolio.

#### **MATHS**

WALT: multiply three digits by one digit. Watch the video then have a go at the work in the booklet.

### https://wimeo.com/486775113

There will be a class maths zoom at 9:30. Please watch the video and do your morning maths first.

# ENGLISH: Explanations

WALT: gather useful vocabulary for our writing.

Our English lesson starts at 10:30 on zoom. I will send a message through class dojo just before we get started.

In Narnia, it is always winter and never Christmas.

Today we are gathering useful vocabulary to describe a frozen scene.

#### Reading:

Our reading for this week can be found at the end of the booklet.

It is an extract from the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl.

Read and enjoy the extract and/or join the zoom

# This is morning maths

Solve these problems using written or mental methods.

If you get stuck send me a dojo message!

| 7200 + ? = 9000 | 12 x 20 | A number is rounded to the nearest 10 giving 540. Use the digits to make the number.  3 4 5 |
|-----------------|---------|---|
| 7824 - 7825     | 170 ÷ 2 | Find 1/4 of 160   |

Filip uses a place value chart to help him multiply a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number.

| Hundreds | Tens | Ones |
|----------|------|------|
| 100      | 000  | 0000 |
| 100      | 000  | 0000 |
| 100      | 000  | 0000 |

- a) What multiplication is Filip working out?
- b) What is the answer to Filip's multiplication?
- Use place value counters to complete the multiplications.
  - a)  $3 \times 213$

d) 6 × 106

**b)** 4 × 216

e) 4 × 209

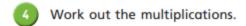
c) 5 × 106

- **f)** 317 × 3
- Complete the multiplication.

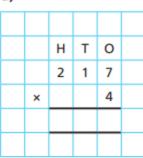
Use the place value chart to help you.

| Н       | Т  | 0   |
|---------|----|-----|
| 100 100 | 10 | 000 |
|         |    | 00  |
| 100 100 | 10 | 000 |
|         |    | 00  |
| 100 100 | 10 | 000 |
|         |    | 00  |

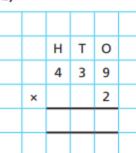
|   | Н | Т | 0 |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|   | 2 | 1 | 5 |  |
| × |   |   | 3 |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |



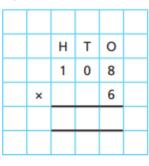




b)



c)



d) 163 × 5

e) 3 × 240

- f) 7 x 131
- A lorry driver travels 156 km per day.

  How many kilometres will the lorry driver have travelled after 3 days?
- 6 Ron and Teddy are working out 5 × 245





I know the answer will be greater than 1,000 because I know 5 × 200 is 1,000

Ron

I know the answer should end in 5 because I know 5 × 5 is 25



a) Who is correct?

Teddy

Ron

Teddy

both

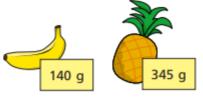
neither

b) Use a written method to work out  $5 \times 245$ 

- There are 7 year groups in a school.

  There are 112 children in each year group.

  How many children are there in the whole school?
- A banana weighs 140 g
   A pineapple weighs 345 g



Bag A contains 8 bananas and bag B contains 3 pineapples. Which bag weighs more and by how much?

Show your working.



English: In your green book make a list of nouns, a list of adjectives and a list of verbs for a frozen scene.

| Nouns                       | Adjectives                 | Verbs                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| People, places, objects and | Words to describe nouns.   | Being, doing and having    |
| things                      |                            | words.                     |
|                             | They can describe size,    |                            |
| What might you find in this | shape, colour, quality,    | How might characters move  |
| scene?                      | temperature and much more. | through the scene?         |
|                             |                            | What would the other nouns |
|                             |                            | be doing?                  |
| Examples: icicle, wind,     | Icy, whilte,               | Crunch, whip, plad         |
| darkness                    |                            |                            |



### Marlborough Primary Academy

Class 4/5B

Home Learning

Date 27/01/21

# Daily activities - 5 a-day!

- 1) TTRockstars 20 minutes
- 2) Morning maths 15 minutes
- 3) Independent Reading 30 minutes
  - 4) Spelling 20 minutes
  - 5) P.E. Joe Wicks workout

#### ENGLISH: Explanations

WALT: plan a short, descriptive story.
Our English lesson starts at 10:30 on zoom. I will send a message through class dojo just before we get started.

Even if you can't join in with the lesson, you can find the work on sheets in this booklet.

#### MATHS

WALT: Multiply 4 digits by 1 digit.
Watch the video then have a go at the work in the booklet.

https://vimeo.com/486775551

There will be a class maths zoom at 9:30. Please watch the video and do your morning maths first.

#### Reading:

Our reading for this week can be found at the end of the booklet.

It is an extract from the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl.

Read and enjoy the extract and/or join the zoom

# This is morning maths

Solve these problems using written or mental methods.

If you get stuck send me a dojo message!

| $\Delta + \Delta = 84$ | 64 x 2  | Round 2681<br>to the nearest 100 |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Δ =                    |         |                                  |
|                        |         |                                  |
| ? - 784 = 527          | 540 ÷ 6 | Find 34 of 12                    |
|                        |         | Find ¾ of 120                    |
|                        |         |                                  |

Complete the sentences to describe the multiplication.

| Th       | Н       | Т | 0   |
|----------|---------|---|-----|
| <b>-</b> | <b></b> | 0 | 000 |
| <b>-</b> | <b></b> | 0 | 000 |
| <b></b>  | 100 100 | 0 | 000 |

There are ones altogether.

There are tens altogether.

There are hundreds altogether.

There are thousands altogether.

2,213 × 3 =

Complete the multiplication.

Use a place value chart to help you.

|   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| × |   |   |   | 4 |  |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |

A football stadium holds 2,214 people.

The stadium is full for 4 matches in a row.

What was the attendance for all 4 matches?

A Nijah is calculating 2,430 × 3

She makes this place value chart to help her.

| Th | Н       | Т        | 0  |
|----|---------|----------|----|
|    | 100 100 | 00       | 00 |
|    | (m) (m) |          |    |
|    |         | 00       | 0  |
|    | <b></b> | 00       | 00 |
|    |         | <b>0</b> |    |

She gets the answer 729

What mistake has Nijah made?

What is the correct answer?

Complete the multiplications.

Ron is working out 7,423 x 0

The answer is 7,423

Do you agree with Ron?

Did Ron have to use a column method? Is there a quicker way?



$$2,846 \times 2$$

$$2,846 \times 4$$

$$2,846 \times 8$$

What do you notice about the answers?



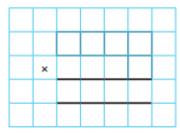
Without using the formal method, how could you use this fact to calculate  $248 \times 9$ ?

Check your answer using the formal method.

Which method was easier?

Use each digit card once to write a multiplication.





How many different products can you find?

What is the closest product to 8,000?



Lucy is just entering Narnia. What will she see as she enters this magical world?

# Extract from The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Looking into the inside, she saw several coats hanging up - mostly long fur coats. There was nothing Lucy liked so much as the smell and feel of fur. She immediately stepped into the wardrobe and got in among the coats and rubbed her face against them, leaving the door open, of course, because she knew that it is very foolish to shut oneself into any wardrobe.

Soon she went further in and found that there was a second row of coats hanging up behind the first one. It was almost quite dark in there and she kept her arms stretched out in front of her so as not to bump her face into the back of the wardrobe. She took a step further in - then two or three steps always expecting to feel woodwork against the tips of her fingers. But she could not feel it. "This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!" thought Lucy, going still further in and pushing the soft folds of the coats aside to make room for her.

Then she noticed that there was something crunching under her feet. "I wonder is that more mothballs?" she thought, stooping down to feel it with her hand. But instead of feeling the hard, smooth wood of the floor of the wardrobe, she felt something soft and powdery and extremely cold. "This is very strange," she said, and went on a step or two further. Next moment she found that what was rubbing against her face and hands was no longer soft fur but something hard and rough and even prickly. "Why, it is just like branches of trees!" exclaimed Lucy.

And then she saw that there was a light ahead of her; not a few inches away where the back of the wardrobe ought to have been, but a long way off. Something cold and soft was falling on her. A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

As Lucy explores the wardrobe she encounters several things that the author describes. Use the text to find out what they are and draw or write one of the things into each box. Now add adjectives to describe the thing and which senses Lucy is using for each one.

Tomorrow you will write your own text to tell how Lucy enters Narnia.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
| 5 | 6 | 7 |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |



### Marlborough Primary Academy

Class 4/5B

Home Learning

Date 28/01/21

# Daily activities - 5 a-day!

- 1) TTRockstars 20 minutes
- 2) Morning maths 15 minutes
- 3) Independent Reading 30 minutes
  - 4) Spelling 20 minutes
  - 5) P.E. Joe Wicks workout

#### **MATHS**

WALT: multiply 2 digits by 2 digits

There is no video for this session. Join in with the maths zoom to find out how to solve these questions with a written method.

There will be a class maths zoom at 9:30. Please watch the video and do your morning maths first.

# ENGLISH: Explanations WALT: write your description of Lucy entering Namia.

Our English lesson starts at 10:30 on zoom. I will send a message through class dojo just before we get started.

Even if you can't join in with the lesson, you can find the work on sheets in this booklet.

#### Reading:

Our reading for this week can be found at the end of the booklet.

It is an extract from the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl.

Read and enjoy the extract and/or join the zoom

# This is morning maths

Solve these problems using written or mental methods.

If you get stuck send me a dojo message!

| 8290 + ? = 10,000 | 13 ж 7     | Round 8409 to the nearest 100  |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 5210 - 4170       | 28 ÷ ? = 7 | Find 2/5 of 60 Find 2/5 of 600 |

# 2-digit Multiplication

```
    3. Multiply
    x 23
    by the ten's place
    1340
```

| 25 × 13 | 71 x 12 | 67 x 51 |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 42 × 36 | 42 × 56 | 29 * 35 |

#### English

Today you are going to write your own description of Lucy entering Narnia. Use the planning you prepared yesterday to write a paragraph about each stage of her exploration.

Use adverbials to help make your work flow.

Some sentence starters you might like to use:

Looking into the wardrobe, ...

As Lucy...

Soon...

A few seconds later...

After another two steps...

Strangely...

Ahead, she could see...

Don't forget to have Lucy use her senses to explore as she enters Narnia.



# Marlborough Primary Academy

Class 4/5B

Home Learning

Date 29/01/21

Daily activities - 5 a-day!

- 1) TTRockstars 20 minutes
- 2) Morning maths 15 minutes
- 3) Independent Reading 30 minutes
  - 4) Spelling 20 minutes
  - 5) P.E. Joe Wicks workout

MATHS

WALT: Multiply 2 digits by 2 digits

Watch the video then have a go at the work in the booklet.

https://wimeo.com/488553863

There will be a class maths zoom at 9:30. Please watch the video and do your morning maths first.

ENGLISH: Explanations
WALT: use was and were correctly.

Our English lesson starts at 10:30 on zoom. I will send a message through class dojo just before we get started.

We will learn about was and were and why it's important to get them right!

Reading:

Our reading for this week can be found at the end of the booklet.

It is an extract from the book 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl.

Read and enjoy the extract and/or join the zoom

# This is morning maths

Solve these problems using written or mental methods.

If you get stuck send me a dojo message!

| 56 + ? = 55 + 14 | 99 * 3      | Round 5417 to the nearest 1000 |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 100 - ? = 54     | 55 ÷ ? = 55 | Find 7/8 of 160                |

- Work out the multiplications.
  - a)  $6 \times 6$

- c) 32 × 3
- e) 21 x 4

 $6 \times 60$ 

 $32 \times 30$ 

 $21 \times 40$ 

**b)** 12 × 8

d) 7 × 9

 $(43 \times 3)$ 

 $(43 \times 10)$ 

f) 48 × 3

 $12 \times 80$ 

 $7 \times 90$ 

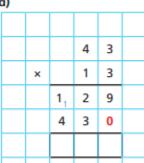
 $48 \times 30$ 

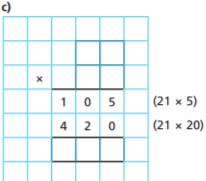
How did you work out your answers?



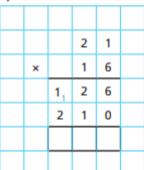
Fill in the missing numbers.

a)

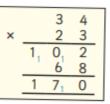




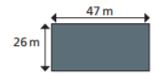
b)

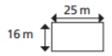


Mo is calculating  $34 \times 23$ Here is his working. What mistake has Mo made? What is the correct answer?



- Work out the multiplications.
  - a) 52 x 34
- **b)** 22 × 56
- c) 46 × 64
- **d)** 47 × 63
- A machine prints 92 labels every minute. How many labels will it print in three-quarters of an hour?
- Here are two rectangles.





a) What is the area of this compound shape?



b) What is the area of tl shaded part?



Compare methods and answers with a partner. What is the same and what is different?

English

Using was and were correctly.

# Using 'was' and 'were'

1. Complete the following sentences using 'was' and 'were' correctly.

| a) Julie knew that she going to be last in the race.     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| b) Noah told his mum he not going to walk the dog.       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| c) If I in charge, I'd make the holidays longer!         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| d) I really excited about visiting my new class.         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| e) We all looking forward to the party.                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Complete these sentence openings with your own ideas. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| a) If only I   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| b) I wish I  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| c) If he   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# 3. Rewrite this text message correctly.

Hi Dad I were
going to be back
at 6 but saw
Danny, he were on
his way to the
park with the
team they was all
saying come with
us so I went I
hope you wasn't
waiting for me.

| • | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br>    | <br>   | <br>    | <br> | <br>    | <br>   |       |     | <br> | <br>      | <br> | <br>      | <br>    | <br> |       | <br> | <br>    | <br> | <br> |   |
|---|------|------|------|------|---------|--------|---------|------|---------|--------|-------|-----|------|-----------|------|-----------|---------|------|-------|------|---------|------|------|---|
|   | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br>    | <br>   | <br>    | <br> | <br>    | <br>   |       |     | <br> | <br>• • • | <br> | <br>      | <br>    | <br> |       | <br> | <br>    | <br> | <br> |   |
| • | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br>    | <br>   | <br>    | <br> | <br>    | <br>   |       |     | <br> | <br>      | <br> | <br>      | <br>    | <br> |       | <br> | <br>••• | <br> | <br> |   |
|   | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br>    | <br>   | <br>    | <br> | <br>    | <br>   | • • • |     | <br> | <br>      | <br> | <br>• • • | <br>••• | <br> | • • • | <br> | <br>    |      | <br> |   |
| • | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br> | <br>••• | <br>•• | <br>••• | <br> | <br>••• | <br>•• |       | ••• | <br> | <br>      | <br> | <br>      | <br>    | <br> |       |      |         |      |      | ) |

This weeks reading- an extract from...

#### Matilda by Roald Dahl

Matilda is the world's most famous bookworm, no thanks to her ghastly parents. Her father thinks she's a little scab. Her mother spends all afternoon playing bingo. And her headmistress, Miss Trunchbull? She's the worst of all.



By the time she was three, Matilda had taught herself to read by studying newspapers and magazines that lay around the house. At the age of four, she could read fast and well and she naturally began hankering after books. The only book in the whole of this enlightened household was something called *Easy Cooking* belonging to her mother, and when she had read this from cover to cover and had learnt all the recipes by heart, she decided she wanted something more interesting.

'Daddy,' she said, 'do you think you could buy me a book?'

'A book?' he said. 'What d'you want a flaming book for?'

'To read, Daddy.'

'What's wrong with the telly, for heaven's sake? We've got a lovely telly with a twelve-inch screen and now you come asking for a book! You're getting spoiled, my girl!'

Nearly every weekday afternoon Matilda was left alone in the house. Her brother (five years older than her) went to school. Her father went to work and her mother went out playing bingo in a town eight miles away. Mrs Wormwood was hooked on bingo and played it five afternoons a week. On the afternoon of the day when her father had refused to buy her a book, Matilda set out all by herself to walk to the public library in the village. When she arrived, she introduced herself to the librarian, Mrs Phelps. She asked if she might sit awhile and read a book. Mrs Phelps, slightly taken aback at the arrival of such a tiny girl unaccompanied by a parent, nevertheless told her she was very welcome.

'Where are the children's books please?' Matilda asked.

'They're over there on those lower shelves,' Mrs Phelps told her. 'Would you like me to help you find a nice one with lots of pictures in it?'

'No, thank you,' Matilda said. 'I'm sure I can manage.'

From then on, every afternoon, as soon as her mother had left for bingo, Matilda would toddle down to the library. The walk took only ten minutes and this allowed her two glorious hours sitting quietly by herself in a cosy corner devouring one book after

another. When she had read every single children's book in the place, she started wandering round in search of something else.



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Mrs Phelps, who had been watching her with fascination for the past few weeks, now got up from her desk and went over to her.

'Can I help you, Matilda?' she asked.

'I'm wondering what to read next,' Matilda said. 'I've finished all the children's books.'

'You mean you've looked at the pictures?'

'Yes, but I've read the books as well.'

Mrs Phelps looked down at Matilda from her great height and Matilda looked right back up at her.

'I thought some were very poor,' Matilda said, 'But others were lovely. I liked *The Secret Garden* best of all. It was full of

mystery. The mystery of the room behind the closed door and the mystery of the garden behind the big wall.'

Mrs Phelps was stunned. 'Exactly how old are you, Matilda?' she asked.

'Four years and three months,' Matilda said.

Mrs Phelps was more stunned than ever, but she had the sense not to show it. 'What sort of a book would you like to read next?' she asked.

Matilda said, 'I would like a really good one that grown-ups read. A famous one. I don't know any names.'

Mrs Phelps looked along the shelves, taking her time. She didn't quite know what to bring out. How, she asked herself, does one choose a famous grown-up book for a four-year-old girl? Her first thought was to pick a young teenager's romance of the kind that is written for fifteen-year-old schoolgirls, but for some reason she found herself instinctively walking past that particular shelf.

'Try this,' she said at last. 'It's very famous and very good. If it's too long for you, just let me know and I'll find something shorter and a bit easier.'

'Great Expectations,' Matilda read, 'by Charles Dickens. I'd love to try it.'

I must be mad, Mrs Phelps told herself, but to Matilda she said, 'Of course you may try it.'



Over the next few afternoons, Mrs Phelps could hardly take her eyes from the small girl sitting for hour after hour in the big armchair at the far end of the room with the book on her lap. It was necessary to rest it on the lap because it was too heavy for her to hold up, which meant she had to sit leaning forward in order to read. And a strange sight it was, this tiny darkhaired person sitting there with her feet nowhere near touching the floor, totally absorbed in the wonderful adventures of Pip and old Miss Havisham and her cobwebbed house and by the spell of magic that Dickens the great story-teller had woven with his words. The only movement from the reader was the lifting of the hand every now and then to turn over a page, and

Mrs Phelps always felt sad when the time came for her to cross the floor and say, 'It's ten to five, Matilda.'

During the first week of Matilda's visits, Mrs Phelps had said to her, 'Does your mother walk you down here every day and then take you home?'

'My mother goes to Aylesbury every afternoon to play bingo,' Matilda had said. 'She doesn't know I come here.'

'But that's surely not right,' Mrs Phelps said. 'I think you'd better ask her.'

'I'd rather not,' Matilda said. 'She doesn't encourage reading books. Nor does my father.'

'But what do they expect you to do every afternoon in an empty house?'

'Just mooch around and watch the telly.'

'I see.'

'She doesn't really care what I do,' Matilda said a little sadly.

Mrs Phelps was concerned about the child's safety on the walk through the fairly busy village High Street and the crossing of the road, but she decided not to interfere.

Within a week, Matilda had finished *Great Expectations* which in that edition contained four hundred and eleven pages. 'I loved it,' she said to Mrs. Phelps. 'Has Mr Dickens written any others?'

'A great number,' said the astounded Mrs Phelps. 'Shall I choose you another?'

Over the next six months, under Mrs Phelps's watchful and compassionate eye, Matilda read the following books:

- Nicholas Nickleby by Charles Dickens
- Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen



- Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
- Animal Farm by George Orwell

- Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
- Gone to Earth by Mary Webb
- Kim by Rudyard Kipling
- The Invisible Man by H. G. Wells
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
- The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
- The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
- The Good Companions by J. B. Priestley

It was a formidable list and by now Mrs Phelps was filled with wonder and excitement, but it was probably a good thing that she did not allow herself to be completely carried away by it all. Almost anyone else witnessing the achievements of this small child would have been tempted to make a great fuss and shout the news all over the village and beyond, but not so Mrs Phelps. She was someone who minded her own business and had long since discovered it was seldom worth while to interfere with other people's children.



'Mr Hemingway says a lot of things I don't understand,' Matilda said to her. 'Especially about men and women. But I loved it all the same. The way he tells it I feel I am right there on the spot watching it all happen.'

'A fine writer will always make you feel that,' Mrs Phelps said. 'And don't worry about the bits you can't understand. Sit back and allow the words to wash around you, like music.'

'I will, I will.'

'Did you know,' Mrs Phelps said, 'that public libraries like this allow you to borrow books and take them home?'

'I didn't know that,' Matilda said. 'Could I do it?'

'Of course,' Mrs Phelps said. 'When you have chosen the book you want, bring it to me so I can make a note of it

and it's yours for two weeks. You can take more than one if you wish."

From then an, Matilda would visit the library only ance a week in order to take out new books and return the old anes. Her own small bedroom now became her reading-room and there she would sit and read most afternoons, often with a mug of hot chocolate beside her. She was not quite tall enough to reach things around the kitchen, but she kept a small box in the authouse which she brought in and stood on in order to get whatever she wanted. Mostly it was hot chocolate she made, warming the milk in a

saucepan on the stove before mixing it. Occasionally she made Bovril or Ovaltine. It was pleasant to take a hot drink up to her room and have it beside her as she sat in her silent room reading in the empty house in the afternoons. The books transported her into new worlds and introduced her to amazing people who lived exciting lives. She went on olden-day sailing ships with Joseph Conrad. She went to Africa with Ernest Hemingway and to India with Rudyard Kipling. She travelled all over the world while sitting in her little room in an English village.