

### Sorting out Homophones in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*

**Directions:** Use the Visual Thesaurus to define the homophone pairs in bold below. Then, based on your knowledge of the words' definitions, choose the correct word to complete each of the *Matilda* sentences below.

**1. hole:** \_\_\_\_\_

**whole:** \_\_\_\_\_

a. "At the mention of this word, Miss Trunchbull's face turned purple and her \_\_\_\_\_ (hole, whole) body seemed to swell up like a bullfrog's." (page 87)

b. "The well had a little wooden roof over it and a simple winding device and there was the rope dangling down into a dark bottomless \_\_\_\_\_ (hole, whole)." (page 188)

**2. die:** \_\_\_\_\_

**dye:** \_\_\_\_\_

a. "He had a mountain to climb and he was jolly well going to reach the top or \_\_\_\_\_ (die, dye) in the attempt." (page 130)

b. "This also served to \_\_\_\_\_ (die, dye) the nasty brown hairs that kept growing from the roots underneath." (page 56)

**3. cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**sell:** \_\_\_\_\_

a. "The room was as small and square as a prison \_\_\_\_\_ (cell, sell)." (page 190)

b. "I don't see how sawdust can help you to \_\_\_\_\_ (cell, sell) second-hand cars, daddy." (page 22)

**4. bare:**\_\_\_\_\_

**bear:**\_\_\_\_\_

a. "...it was also the house of The Seven Dwarfs and The Three \_\_\_\_\_(bares, bears) and all the rest of them. It was straight out of a fairy-tale." (page 186)

b. "She appeared to be not in the least ill at ease sitting on an upturned box in a \_\_\_\_\_ (bare, bear) room and drinking tea out of a mug that she balanced on her knee."

**5. coarse:**\_\_\_\_\_

**course:**\_\_\_\_\_

a. "The massive thighs which emerged from out of the smock were encased in a pair of extraordinary breeches, bottle-green in colour and made of \_\_\_\_\_(coarse, course) twill." (page 83)

b. "Occasionally one comes across parents who take the opposite line, who show no interest at all in their children, and these of \_\_\_\_\_(coarse, course) are far worse than the doting ones." (page 10)

**6. dear:**\_\_\_\_\_

**deer:**\_\_\_\_\_

a. "The Trunchbull started advancing slow and soft-footed upon Rupert in the manner of a tigress stalking a small \_\_\_\_\_ (dear, deer)." (page 148)

b. " 'My \_\_\_\_\_(dear, deer) woman, that doesn't make her a genius! It makes her a parrot!' " (page 87)