

# DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival  
for Young Audiences



## Teachers' Resource: **Shorts for Middle Ones 2021**

First and Second Level

Created by Created by Helen Appleyard, Ian Cameron, Lindsey Law, Sarah Sturrock  
and Sonia MacEwan

**Discovery Film Festival: Sat 23 October – Sun 7 November 2021**

# DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

[discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk](http://discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk)

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With support from DCA Cinema and Learning teams



## Matilda And The Spare Head (*Matilda ir atsarginė galva*)

Directed by Ignas Meilūnas

Lithuania 2020 / 13'09"

Lithuanian with English subtitles

Activities created by Sarah Sturrock

### Synopsis of film

*Matilda And The Spare Head* is a story about a girl who wants to be the smartest person in the world. When all the things she's learned can no longer fit in one head, her mother buys her a backup one. Two heads are better than one but Matilda soon becomes confused which head should she wear at what time and loses the second head shortly after.

This resource pack is aimed mostly at Second Level and covers a range of subjects including Literacy, Digital Literacy, Exp. Arts and HWB. (HWB 2-10a, LIT 2-07a, EXA 2-02a)

"I can't wait to work with this film in my classroom. It is important for children to know that they are all unique and come from a variety of backgrounds but each child is so important in the class. We will use this to discuss kindness as the children in the film all accepted Matilda with open arms and I want that ethos for my classroom."

"I always use film as an imperative part of my teaching. Whether it is used as a stimulus for writing or a discussion point, using the Cs and Ss for analysis or a basis for expressive arts, there is always a place for it in my classroom. I am so enthusiastic for it, as are the children."



## Before watching the film

### Whole class discussion/Partner work.

Looking at the poster and describe what you see in the picture. What do you notice about the way the characters are made? Make assumptions/predictions about what might happen in the film based on some of the things you can see from the poster. This discussion can either be had as a whole class discussion or you can allow the class to talk to a partner then feedback to the class. They can write down their predictions or share orally.

### Discussion points/questions

- 1 What are your feelings towards Matilda through the film? (Think about the way the other characters react towards her – mother, teacher and other children.)
- 2 How important is the ball in the film? (Very important – shows Matilda the other children playing and having fun. Something that she doesn't have. Also gives her the inspiration to use the spare head a ball at the end).
- 3 Do you think you could ever fill your head with all the things you learn? If so, would you like to have a second head you could switch between? Why/why not?

### Activity 1: It's All in Your Head

In the film, Matilda's head was full of the things she has memorised from lots of different books, including the phone book. Think of all the information you have stored in your brain. Talk to your shoulder partner for 2 minutes about what kind of information you have stored in your brain. Then, discuss some of your ideas with the rest of your class. Examples may include memories, experiences, feelings, names, or knowledge (things you have learned at school or at home.)

Your brain holds all of this information and although it can never be full like Matilda's you can forget things from time to time. Using the brain template (Appendix 2) either write or draw some important information that your brain has stored about you – could it be a memory from a holiday you went to, or a fact from learning about the Egyptians in school? Fill the brain with as much information as you can think about.

The brain you have completed will be very different from the person beside you because we are all different and have different interests, hobbies and experiences.

*I recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. I contribute to making my school community one which values individuals equally and is a welcoming place for all.*

**HWB 1-10a / HWB 2-10a**



animated short film by Ignas Meilūnas



# Matilda

*and the spare head*

director **IGNAS MEILŪNAS** scriptwriters **DANGIRAS BUGAS, IGNAS MEILŪNAS** producers **MARIJA RAZGUTĖ, IGNAS MEILŪNAS**  
cinematographer / gaffer **SIMONAS GLINSKIS** production designer **ANTANAS DUBRA** sound designer **JULIUS GRIGELIONIS**  
composer **RYTIS KORENIUKAS** animators **ANNI OJA, ARNAU GODIA MONTESINOS, IGNAS MEILŪNAS**

production company **m-films**

supported by





## Activity 2: The Importance of Sound

Think about the sound the filmmaker used when the children were playing at the start and then when Matilda started to join in with them. This can also be found on the trailer <https://vimeo.com/458527945>  
Discuss the following points in small groups/as a whole class.

- Do you think the music matches the setting? Why/why not?
- Have you heard music like this before? If so, where?
- How would you describe the music in one word?
- How does the music link to the way Matilda and the other children are feeling?
- Could you think of another song that could fit here?

*I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to literal, inferential, evaluative and other types of questions, and by asking different kinds of questions of my own. LIT 2-07a*

## Activity 3: Stop Motion Animation

*Matilda And The Spare Head* was created using stop motion animation. Firstly discuss where they may have seen stop motion animation before – perhaps *Wallace and Gromit*, *Chicken Run* or *Shaun the Sheep*.

Useful video to explain to the class what it is and how it works:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/art-and-design-ks2-stop-motion-animation/zr67kmn>

Then, give the children the chance to create their own models using play-doh or plasticine. If you have access to ZU-3d, Stop Motion Studio or Pivot on iPads, laptops or netbooks for example, they could also have a go at creating their own stop motion animation.

You can choose to link it to *Matilda And The Spare Head*, to a topic you are learning about or give them free choice to create their own story or characters.

*I have the opportunity to choose and explore an extended range of media and technologies to create images and objects, comparing and combining them for specific tasks. EXA 2-02a*

## Follow-up work

How Your Memory Works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqFtWwQCzFI>

Use Your Brain!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b79xio8qgiY>