

MR WORMWOOD

What, what is it? What can I do?

MATILDA

You could pretend you're an elf.

MR WORMWOOD

Yes! That's it, I could pretend I'm a...

(realises the stupidity of it)

What are you talking about you fool? The boy's a loony!

MRS. PHELPS
SIDE

#2b - Hear a Story

*HE leaves, devastated. MRS WORMWOOD starts to get on with her day.
MATILDA thinks, goes up to her.*

MATILDA

Mum, would you like to hear a story?

MRS WORMWOOD

Don't be disgusting! Go on, creep on back to that library of yours or something. The sooner you're locked up in school the better.

MATILDA turns up at the Library.

MRS PHELPS

Matilda! What a pleasure to see you: here in the library again, are we? 7

MATILDA

Yes. I mean, my Mum wanted me to stay at home with her. She hates it when I go out. She misses me so much. Dad too, he loves having me around.

Beat.

But I think it's good for grownups to have their own space.

MRS PHELPS

Your parents must be so proud to have a girl as clever as you. And do you tell them lots of stories like you do with me? Oh, I love your stories, Matilda.

Beat.

And that's not a hint, by the way. But if you did happen to have a story you wanted to tell me -

MISS HONEY is leaving the library.

MISS HONEY

Goodbye Mrs Phelps. See you next week.

MRS PHELPS

Goodbye Miss Honey. And good luck with the Tolstoy.

#2c - Good Luck With The Tolstoy

MRS PHELPS almost bumps into Matilda. A moment. Leaves.

As I was saying, Matilda, I'm not hinting, but if you did happen to have a story you wanted to tell me, I could -

MATILDA

Who was that lady?

MRS PHELPS

That lady? That was Miss Honey. She's going to be your teacher.

MATILDA

That lady... that lady is my...?

MRS PHELPS

Yes your teacher. Now look, are you going to tell me a story or not?

MATILDA

END

(still far away)

Once upon a time...

#3 - Acrobat Story I

MRS PHELPS gives a squeak of delight. Runs to get some chairs for them to sit on a large one for her a small one for Matilda, but MATILDA leaps up on the big one to tell the story. With no other option MRS PHELPS sit on the small one.

Once upon a time the two greatest circus performers in the world - an escapologist, who could escape from any lock that was ever invented, and an acrobat, who was so skilled it seemed as if she could actually fly - fell in love and got married.

They performed some of the most incredible feats together anyone has ever seen and people would come from miles around: Kings, Queens, Celebrities and Astronauts. And not just to see their skill, but also to see their love for each other, which was so deep that it was said that cats would purr as they passed them and dogs would weep with joy.

They moved into a beautiful, old house on the edge of town and in the evenings they would walk and take the air. And each night the children of the town would wait in anticipation, hoping for a glimpse of the shiny white scarf that the acrobat always wore - for then they knew they had only to cry 'tricks, tricks' and the great