

Friday 26th February

Prediction

What do you think a poem titled "Matilda, Who Told Such Dreadful Lies" will be about?

You don't need to write this answer down.

Read the whole text.

If you are unsure of the meaning of any words, you can clarify them on the internet.

Matilda, Who Told Such Dreadful Lies

Matilda told such Dreadful Lies,
It made one Gasp and Stretch one's Eyes;
Her Aunt, who, from her Earliest Youth,
Had kept a Strict Regard for Truth,
Attempted to Believe Matilda:
The effort very nearly killed her,
And would have done so, had not She
Discovered this Infirmary.

For once, towards the Close of Day,
Matilda, growing tired of play,
And finding she was left alone,
Went tiptoe to the Telephone
And summoned the Immediate Aid
Of London's Noble Fire-Brigade.
Within an hour the Gallant Band
Were pouring in on every hand,
From Putney, Hackney Downs, and Bow
With Courage high and Hearts a-glow
They galloped, roaring through the Town
'Matilda's House is Burning Down!'
Inspired by British Cheers and Loud
Proceeding from the Frenzied Crowd,
They ran their ladders through a score
Of windows on the Ball Room Floor;
And took Peculiar Pains to Souse



The Pictures up and down the House,
Until Matilda's Aunt succeeded
In showing them they were not needed;
And even then she had to pay
To get the Men to go away!
It happened that a few Weeks later
Her Aunt was off to the Theatre
To see that Interesting Play
The Second Mrs Tanqueray.
She had refused to take her Niece
To hear this Entertaining Piece:
A Deprivation Just and Wise
To Punish her for Telling Lies.
That Night a Fire *did* break out-
You should have heard Matilda Shout!
You should have heard her Scream and Bawl,
And throw the window up and call
To People passing in the Street-
(The rapidly increasing Heat
Encouraging her to obtain
Their confidence)-but all in vain!
For every time She shouted 'Fire!'
They only answered 'Little Liar'!
And therefore when her Aunt returned,
Matilda, and the House, were Burned.
By Hilaire Belloc

Questions

- ① What two things did Matilda's lies make people do?
- ② Did Matilda's Aunt lie when she was a child?
- ③ What was the name of the play that Matilda's Aunt went to see?
- ④ Why might Matilda have had to go and live with her Aunt?
- ⑤ Why did Matilda 'tiptoe' to the phone to call the Fire Brigade?
- ⑥ How do you think the fire fighters felt (the first time Matilda called them) when they found out that there was no fire? Explain your answer
- ⑦ Do you think the people were right to ignore Matilda when she asked for help? Explain your answer
- ⑧ What is the moral of the poem?

Summary

Summarise what you have just read. *You don't need to write this answer down.*

WRITTEN TASK: COMPREHENSION

Answer the questions (① to ⑧) in full sentences.

CHALLENGE: How are this poem and the story of 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' similar?