

Be brave with words: Find awesome antonyms



There are some **mideous** characters in Matilda's life. Trunchbull is truly a **squifflerotter** and Mr Wormwood, her father, is quite the **grinksludger**.

It takes courage for people to admit they have behaved badly, and to try to change the way they behave in the future.

Imagine if Miss Trunchbull and Mr Wormwood chose to stop being nasty, and chose to be nice instead . . .

Below are examples of when Miss Trunchbull and Mr Wormwood have been particularly **villainous**.

Choose the adjective which best describes their actions and write it down. Then pick a word that means the opposite, an **antonym**, and write it next to your adjective—that's how they could behave if they could only change their ways! Some ideas and an example have been written for you in the first question.

TIP: use a dictionary and thesaurus to help you!

An **antonym** (say ant-o-nim) is a word that is opposite in meaning to another. Soft is an antonym of hard.

An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun or adds to its meaning, for example *big, blue, friendly, hairy*.

MISS TRUNCHBULL 1

Miss Trunchbull lifts poor Rupert out of his seat by his hair and holds him in the air!

Choose which of the words below best describes what Miss Trunchbull has done to Rupert.

Now decide which word means the opposite of your word? This is how she could behave!

aggressive

gentle

brutal

friendly

monstrous

kind

brutal

gentle



Discover a world of **lickswishy** language and unlock your inner **splendiferous** storyteller, just like Roald Dahl.



MISS TRUNCHBULL 2

Miss Trunchbull shouts at Matilda in front of her whole class, accusing her of lying about reading *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens—even though Matilda is telling the truth. Miss Trunchbull even calls her an ‘unhatched shrimp’!

Which word, in your opinion, describes her behaviour most accurately? Think of your own or use the words below for inspiration.	How could she behave differently? Which word could be the opposite of her behaviour?
spiteful	patient
irritable	pleasant
unreasonable	fair
.....



MR WORMWOOD 1

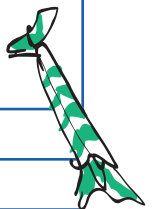
Matilda’s father interferes with cars before he sells them. Mr Wormwood changes the dial which shows how many miles the cars have travelled. He makes it seem like the cars have done fewer miles and are newer and therefore more valuable! It makes him a lot of money but means his customers have cars that break down easily.

Which word, in your opinion, describes his behaviour most accurately? Think of your own or use the words below for inspiration.	How could he behave differently? What word could be the opposite of his behaviour?
devious	honest
villainous	trustworthy
dishonest	helpful
.....

MR WORMWOOD 2

Matilda’s father gets ‘fed up’ with her reading and rips her library book into shreds in front of her, throwing the torn pages into the waste paper basket.

Which word, in your opinion, describes his behaviour most accurately? Think of your own or use the words below for inspiration.	How could he behave differently? What word could be the opposite of his behaviour?
disrespectful	good-natured
villainous	considerate
bad-tempered	supportive
.....



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