

MATILDA, LAVENDER, NIGEL, BIG KID 1, BIG KID 2

LAVENDER: Matilda, can I ask you a question? Do all those brains in your head give you a headache? I mean, it's got to hurt, all squished in there.

MATILDA: No, it's fine. I think they just... fit.

LAVENDER: Right. Well look, I'd better hang around just in case. If they start to squeeze out of your ears you're going to need help. I'm Lavender. And I think it's probably for the best if we're best friends.

She holds her hand out. They shake. Suddenly, Nigel appears in a panic.

NIGEL: Hide me! Someone poured a whole can of syrup onto Trunchbull's chair! She sat down, and when she got up, her knickers stayed stuck to the seat! Someone told her I did it, but I never – and now she's after me!

MATILDA: That's not fair! That's not fair at all!

BIG KID 1: You're done, kid. You're finished.

BIG KID 2: Once Agatha Trunchbull decides you're guilty, you are squished.

BIG KID 1: Yesterday she caught Julius Rottwinkle eating a licorice all-sort during science. She just picked him up, swung him around, and threw him out the window.

MATILDA: Don't listen to them! That didn't happen, they're just trying to scare us.

NIGEL: Oh, Matilda... They're saying she's going to put me in Chokey.

The BIG KIDS suddenly gasp.

MATILDA: W... What's Chokey?

BIG KID 2: They say it's a cupboard in her office that she throws children into. They say she's lined it with nails and spikes and bits of broken glass.