

## LESSON 11

Read the passage from “The Matron,” paragraphs 25–37.

Note two places in your reading that grabbed your attention and describe what you notice and think about this place in the text.

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**1. What problem was the Matron trying to solve?**

- a. Tweedie’s sleepwalking
- b. Tweedie’s bed-wetting
- c. Tweedie’s talking at bedtime
- d. Tweedie’s snoring

**2. How does Dahl react to the Matron’s treatment of Tweedie?**

- a. He expresses his worry for Tweedie.
- b. He expresses his amusement at the scene.
- c. He expresses his dislike for Tweedie.
- d. He expresses his lack of concern.

**3. Choose the paragraph in which Dahl expresses his reaction to her solution.**

**a.** She always had a pair of scissors hanging by a white tape from her waist, and with this she began shaving thin slivers of soap into the palm of one hand. Then she went over to where the wretched Tweedie lay and very carefully she dropped these little soap-flakes into his open mouth. She had a whole handful of them and I thought she was never going to stop. (31)

**b.** What on earth is going to happen? I wondered. Would Tweedie choke? Would he strangle? Might his throat get blocked up completely? Was she going to kill him? (32)

**c.** The Matron stepped back a couple of paces and folded her arms across, or rather underneath, her massive chest. (33)

**d.** Nothing happened. Tweedie kept right on snoring. (34)

**e.** Then suddenly he began to gurgle and white bubbles appeared around his lips. The bubbles grew and grew until in the end his whole face seemed to be smothered in a bubbly foaming white soapy froth. It was a horrific sight. Then all at once, Tweedie gave a great cough and a splutter and he sat up very fast and began clawing at his face with his hands. ‘Oh!’ he stuttered. ‘Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh no! Wh-wh-what’s happening? Wh-wh-what’s on my face? Somebody help me!’ (35)

**f.** The Matron threw him a face flannel and said, ‘Wipe it off, Tweedie. And don’t ever let me hear you snoring again. Hasn’t anyone ever taught you not to go to sleep on your back?’ (36)

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**g.** With that she marched out of the dormitory and slammed the door. (37)

**4. The end result of the Matron's punishment is that Tweedie \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. is sent to the hospital
- b. chokes badly then dies
- c. gurgles and coughs

**5. Which of these BEST describes the Matron?**

- a. Cruel and scary
- b. Delightful and funny
- c. Weird and lonely
- d. Gross and smelly

**6. Choose the sentence that most clearly shows that the students were afraid of the Matron.**

**a.** None of us dared to sit up in bed, but all eyes were on the Matron now, watching to see what she was going to do next. **b.** She always had a pair of scissors hanging by a white tape from her waist, and with this she began shaving thin slivers of soap into the palm of one hand. **c.** Then she went over to where the wretched Tweedie lay and very carefully she dropped these little soap-flakes into his open mouth. **d.** She had a whole handful of them and I thought she was never going to stop. (31)

**7. Give the Matron advice about how better to deal with young students. Explain to her what she did wrong and how she can improve.**

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