

(NIGEL, MATILDA, and LAVENDER raise their hands.)

NIGEL

Me, me, me, oooh, oooh, me, pick me miss, I can,
mememememe—

MISS HONEY

Very well, Nigel.

(NIGEL opens his mouth to speak, but nothing comes out.)

Yes, I think we'd better leave it there, Nigel, we don't want you
to burst a blood vessel on your first day.

(NIGEL droops on his desk.)

Lavender?

LAVENDER

Is the first word... tomato?

MISS HONEY

Um, no. But tomato is a very good word.

LAVENDER

Yessss!

MISS HONEY

Matilda?

MATILDA

"I can now read words."

MISS HONEY

So Matilda, you can read words?

MATILDA

Well, I needed to learn to read words so that I could read
sentences because basically a sentence is just a big bunch of
words. And if you can't read sentences you've got no chance
with books.

MISS HONEY

And... have you read a whole book yourself?

MATILDA

More than one. I love books. Last week I read quite a few.

MISS HONEY

A few? What books did you read?