

A Novel Study Planning Guide based on Blooms & QAR
The Red Shoes by Ursula Dubosarsky

Content ⇒ Process ↓	People	Places	Events	Themes	Connections within the novel and with the readers experience.	Structure and Methods (Use of a range of reading strategies)
Knowledge In The Book: Right There	Matilda's father is in the Merchant Navy. What is the Merchant Navy and why is it different to The Navy?	The story is set in Palm Beach and the Basin in the 1950s. Can you find any pictures of what the area would have looked like during that time? What schools existed at that time? Which school do you think Matilda and Frances went to and which school could Elizabeth have attended?	Vladimir and Mrs Petrov were Russians who decided to give up their country, claim political asylum and live in Australia. What is political asylum? Can you find out about any people in 2012 that are currently claiming political asylum? If so, Why?	The author who wrote The Red Shoes that Frances read to Matilda was called Hans Christian Anderson. Who was he? What other literary works is he famous for? Which is your favourite? Why?		Write a summary of the book. Explain the main events, the complications that occur and the way things are resolved in the end.
Comprehension In the Book: Think and Search	Draw a Venn diagram and show the differences in the family's (including Uncle Paul) characters. How does their relationship change as the book unfolds?	Why does Elizabeth refuse to go back to school?	What is the significance of Matilda winning the most interesting pet competition? Why do you think her memory floods back at this point?	The girls' father is suffering from the effects of World War 2. Now this is recognised as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. What is it? How do people get it?		
Analysis & Application In My Head: Author and Me	How does the author suggest throughout the book that Uncle Paul is a dark character? Please use quotes from the book to justify your answers.		Why do you think uncle Paul just stood and watched his brother at The Basin? Why do you think he didn't try to stop him?	How does each member of the family deal with their experience at The Basin? Explain their ways of dealing with what they saw.		
Synthesis In My Head: On My Own	Why do you think Elizabeth feels as if a heavy weight has been lifted off her shoulders as she stands in the water?		Throughout the book there are newspaper articles about polio. What is polio? Are we at risk today? Why/ Why not? Is anyone at risk of this disease today? Why/ Why not?	Depression is something that affects 1 in 4 Australians at some point. What is depression? Can it be cured? What organisations are there that can help?	List all the memorable events in the book. Create a collage to represent your memories.	Create 20 multiple choice quiz questions about the book. Ask questions about the characters and events in the story.
Evaluation In My Head: On My Own	Why, at the end of the novel did Callie decide to go and visit her mother? Why did Lev want to remain behind? How did Steven change as a character?	Why do you think the author chose to set the story in Palm Beach rather than in the city?			Matilda invented an invisible friend called Floreal. Floreal said, things that Matilda felt, but never said, why do you think she was unable to verbalise those things on her own? Why do you think Floreal finally left?	There are multiple ideas that run con-currently throughout this book. What are they? Why has the author chosen to weave the stories together like this?