

Matilda

You've been asked to direct this scene. Add stage directions and decide on the lighting, costumes and props to be used.

Mr Wormwood: Sawdust. That's the secret. And it costs me nothing. I get it from the wood shop.

Matilda: How can sawdust help you sell cars, daddy? I don't understand.

Mr Wormwood: That's because you're a stupid little girl. I'm always glad to buy a car with an old gearbox, one that makes a terrible noise. I get it cheap. Then I mix a little sawdust with the oil in the gearbox and it goes beautifully – for a day or two.

Matilda: How long will it go like that before it starts making noises again?

Mr Wormwood: Long enough for the buyer to get a long way away.

Matilda: But that's not honest, daddy.

Mr Wormwood: Nobody gets rich by being honest. For example, anyone who buys a car asks, "How many miles has it done?" Right, Michael?

Michael: Right.

Mr Wormwood: So, I buy an old car that's done a hundred and fifty thousand miles, and get it cheap. Then I ask myself, "How can I change the clock so that it reads ten thousand?" If I run the car backwards, the numbers will go backwards. But who's going to drive a car backwards for thousands and thousands of miles?

Michael: Nobody.

Mr Wormwood: Right. Now this clock thing runs off one of the front wheels. So I use an electric drill on it, and when the drill turns, it turns the clock backwards – very fast! I can take fifty thousand miles off the car in a few minutes! And by the time I finish, the car's only done ten thousand, and I tell the customer, "It belonged to an old person who only used it once a week for shopping."

Matilda: But daddy that's terrible. It's not honest, and–

Mr Wormwood: You're just a stupid little girl!

Mrs Wormwood: That's right, Harry. Keep your ugly little mouth shut, Matilda. We want to watch TV!