

# Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for

## Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

by  
Roald Dahl

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### Book Information

Roald Dahl, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Quiz Number: 20

Puffin, 1998

ISBN 0-14-130115-5; LCCN

155 Pages

Book Level: 4.8

Interest Level: MG

Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

**Award:** Bilby Award; SLJ Best Book

**Topics:** Classics, Classics (All);  
Fantasy/Imagination, Wishes; Food,  
Candy/Sweets; People, Children; Popular  
Groupings, Middle Grades Popular  
Authors/Starred Reviews; Recommended  
Reading, California Recommended Lit.,  
English, 3-5

### Main Characters

Augustus Gloop an overweight boy who eats anything he can get his hands on

Charlie Bucket a poor young boy who loves chocolate and lives in the shadow of the Wonka Chocolate Factory with his parents and four elderly grandparents

Grandpa Joe Charlie's eldest grandparent who hasn't been out of bed in twenty years

Mike Teavee a smart-aleck boy who is addicted to television

the Oompa-Loompas a tribe of short people who lived in the jungle and loved cacao beans more than anything in the world and who now work at the Wonka Chocolate Factory

Veruca Salt a rich, spoiled girl whose parents give her anything she desires

Violet Beauregarde a world champion gum chewer who has been chewing the same piece of gum for three years

Willy Wonka the owner of the world's largest chocolate factory

### Vocabulary

**absurd** ridiculously unreasonable

**flabbergasted** overwhelmed with shock, wonder, or surprise

**obstinately** perversely adhering to an opinion in spite of reason

**pandemonium** wild uproar or disorder

### Synopsis

Charlie Bucket is a young, chocolate-loving boy who lives in the shadow of the world's largest chocolate factory. His family is extremely poor, however, and he only has the chance to enjoy his beloved chocolate once each year when his parents and elderly grandparents buy him a chocolate bar. This year's chocolate bar holds a special possibility. Mr. Wonka, the owner of the local chocolate factory has placed five golden tickets in his chocolate bars. The children who find these tickets are invited on a special tour of the Wonka Chocolate Factory.

Charlie, like all children in the world, has hopes of finding a ticket. Unfortunately, he does not find one in his birthday bar. One day before the chocolate factory tour is set to occur, Charlie finds a dollar in the snow. Since no one seems to be looking for it, he takes the dollar to a candy store and buys some chocolate. Miraculously, Charlie finds the fifth golden ticket in the second chocolate bar he buys. He runs home to tell his family, and it is decided that Grandpa Joe will accompany him on the tour.

On the tour, Mr. Wonka shows Charlie and the other children the wonders of his fabulous factory. They take a ride on the chocolate river where they taste candy trees and plants. They are introduced to the Oompa-Loompas who work in the factory. They are given a tour of the inventing room and many of the other rooms of the vast factory.

Along the way, four of the children get greedy and meet with trouble in the factory. One at a time, each of the children and their parents disappear from the tour. By the time the tour is over only Charlie remains. At this discovery Mr. Wonka congratulates

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Charlie and rewards him by giving him the factory. Charlie, Grandpa Joe, and Mr. Wonka take the glass elevator out the top of the factory and fly to Charlie's home to pick up the rest of the family. The whole family is to live in the factory, and Charlie is to learn how to make Mr. Wonka's world-famous chocolates.

### Open-Ended Questions

Use these open-ended questions as the basis for class discussions, student presentations, or extended writing assignments.

#### Initial Understanding

What characteristics of the other four children caused them to be eliminated from the factory tour?

*Augustus Gloop was greedy and gluttonous, which ultimately caused him to fall into the chocolate river. Violet Beauregarde was addicted to gum. She insisted on having a piece of the magic gum and rudely snatched it from the drawer, causing her to swell up like a giant blueberry. Veruca Salt was a rude, spoiled, nasty girl who became upset when Mr. Wonka said she couldn't have a squirrel. Because she was used to getting her own way, she was tossed into the garbage chute by the squirrels. Mike Teavee was uninterested in real life and only wanted to watch television. He loved TV so much, he risked danger for the chance to be sent through the air into the television.*

#### Literary Analysis

How were Charlie and Willy Wonka alike?

*Both deeply cared about something. For Mr. Wonka, it was his factory and for Charlie, his grandparents. Both were basically kind and sensible, and both, of course, loved chocolate.*

#### Inferential Comprehension

What kind of effect did Charlie's presence have on his grandparents?

*It made them happier, and his evening visits gave them something to look forward to each day. Grandpa Joe seemed to be affected especially strongly. It was stated that Charlie's presence made him feel young again.*

#### Constructing Meaning

Why was Charlie the most deserving of the golden-ticket winners?

*The other children were indulged and spoiled to the point that they had no manners. Charlie was sweet and thought about others.*

### Teachable Skills

**Understanding the Author's Craft** Roald Dahl has written a number of fantastic stories that involve many impossible but exciting happenings. Have the students read another Roald Dahl book and try to identify some of the features of fantasy writing. Have the students apply this writing style to a work of their own. The students could rewrite a real story to make it unbelievable or invent their own story, being sure to make it silly and fantastic.

**Comparing and Contrasting** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was made into a movie entitled *Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory*. Play the movie for the class, and ask them to take notes comparing places where the movie and the book are similar and places where they differ. Afterward, perhaps the class could hold a chocolate party and/or tour a chocolate factory.

**Understanding Sequence** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* has a great deal of action in it. There are many happenings in the storyline. Have the class try to recall the sequence of events that took place in the story from memory. Once they have completed this, have them review the story to see if they remembered the events in the correct sequence.

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**Responding to Literature** When Charlie found the fifth golden ticket, some people offered to buy it from him. Have the students write opinion papers explaining whether they would have taken the money or kept the ticket. Remind the students to support their choice.