Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
by
Roald Dahl

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 a
entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious
chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in
his own way.

Award: Biiby 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.
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.