
Roald Dahl

WORKSHEET A

Roald Dahl (1916-90) was a British writer who wrote some very famous children's books, as well a large number of short stories for adults. Some of his works later became TV programmes or films.

Dahl had Norwegian parents but was born in Cardiff, the capital of Wales. During the Second World War he was a pilot in the British air force, and his wartime adventures provided the subject of his first piece of published work. He tried to write his children's books from the point of view of a child, and often included a lot of black humour in them. They include *Matilda*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Fantastic Mr Fox*, but the most popular of all is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which he wrote in 1964. A film version of the book appeared in 2005, starring Johnny Depp.

The hero of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is Charlie Bucket, a kind-hearted boy who loves chocolate and lives quite close to the world's biggest chocolate factory, which belongs to the eccentric Willy Wonka. The factory is a wonderful place, with products including ice cream that never melts, chewing gum that never loses its flavour, sweets that repair damaged teeth, and invisible chocolate bars that children are therefore able to eat during lessons in school.

At the start of the story the factory has been closed to the public for many years, but then Mr Wonka puts special 'Golden Tickets' inside the wrapping of five of his chocolate bars, and says he will offer guided tours of the factory to the people who are lucky enough to buy them.

Charlie gets one of the tickets, while the other four go to rather unpleasant children: a gluttonous boy called Augustus Gloop, a spoilt brat called Veruca Salt, a chewing gum addict called Violet Beauregarde, and a boy called Mike Teavee who wants to watch television all the time.

When they arrive at the factory the other four other children start behaving badly, and all of them end up in grotesque but amusing situations that prevent them from continuing the tour. Augustus Gloop, for example, falls into a river of chocolate, while Violet Beauregarde tries a special kind of chewing gum that causes her to turn into a very large blueberry.

Eventually, when Charlie is the only child left, we discover Mr Wonka's reason for organising the tour. It is surprising news, but also very good for Charlie. This is not the place, however, to spoil the ending by revealing anything more.

Roald Dahl

WORKSHEET B

Part A

Can you find the words in the text that mean the same as the following?

1. nice, caring
2. greedy
3. unpleasant young person who behaves badly
4. small pieces of food containing a lot of sugar ('candy' in American English)
5. someone who cannot stop doing or using something
6. strange and unpleasant
7. funny, entertaining
8. in a worse condition than before
9. to turn from something solid into something soft or liquid

Part B

Now decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. Roald Dahl never wrote about the Second World War.
2. In *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Mr Wonka's factory is in Wales.
3. Charlie and Augustus Gloop finish the tour of the factory.
4. Mike Teavee doesn't finish the tour of the factory.
5. The factory produces ice cream.
6. At the start of the story we don't know why Mr Wonka organised the guided tour of the factory.
7. Mr Wonka is a very normal person.
8. Roald Dahl was born in Norway.

Part C

Based on the language in the text, decide whether the following sentences are correct.

1. Chewing gum loses its flavour after a few minutes.
2. 'Don't tell me! I haven't seen the film yet, and I don't want you to spoil the ending.'
3. The house is open to the public every day of the week.
4. 'Why don't you try to see things by my point of view?'

Roald Dahl

WORKSHEET C

Part D

Team A

Using the information in the text on Worksheet A, can you make questions using the words in the boxes? Use only one box for each question, and don't repeat any questions. When you have prepared the questions, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

What is the name	What kind of	behaves badly	What happened
When	Golden Tickets	subject	1964
love	How many	Who	Second World War

Team B

Using the information in the text on Worksheet A, can you make questions using the words in the boxes? Use only one box for each question, and don't repeat any questions. When you have prepared the questions, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

Where	What kind of	belong to	What happened
Why	What is the name	Where ... born	turn into
Who	How long	live quite close to	2005