

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

(fragment)

by Roald Dahl

Age category: 14 year olds – 7th or 8th graders

[Roald Dahl was a British novelist, short story writer and screenwriter, who was born in Cardiff, Wales on 13 September 1913, on Norwegian parents, and died on 23 November 1990 in England. He became famous in the 1940s with works for both children and adults. His short stories are renowned for their unexpected endings, and his children's books for their unsentimental, often very dark humour.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was written in 1964 and depicts the adventures of five children through Mr. Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, the greatest in the world. Among these children is Charlie Bucket, a poor but virtuous boy, who lives in a tiny house with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bucket, and all of his four grandparents. In order to choose who will enter the factory, Mr. Wonka designed a plan to hide five Golden Tickets beneath the wrappers of his famous chocolate bars. The fragment below focuses on the moment when one of the children wins one of the five tickets.]

Suddenly, on the day before Charlie Bucket's birthday, the newspapers announced that the second Golden Ticket had been found. The lucky person was a small girl called Veruca Salt who lived with her rich parents in a great city far away. Once again Mr Bucket's evening newspaper carried a big picture of the finder. She was sitting between her beaming father and mother in the living room of their house, waving the Golden Ticket above her head, and grinning from ear to ear.

Veruca's father, Mr. Salt, had eagerly explained to the newspapermen exactly how the ticket was found. 'You see, boys,' he had said, 'as soon as my little girl told me that she simply had to have one of those Golden Tickets, I went out into the town and started buying up all the Wonka bars I could lay my hands on. Thousands of them, I must have bought. Hundreds of thousands! Then I had them loaded on to trucks and sent directly to my own factory. I'm in the peanut business, you see, and I've got about a hundred women working for me over at my place, shelling peanuts for roasting and salting. That's what they do all day long, those women, they sit there shelling peanuts. So I say to them, "Okay, girls," I say, "from now on, you can stop shelling peanuts and start shelling the wrappers off these chocolate bars instead!" And they did. I had every worker in the place

yanking the paper off those bars of chocolate full speed ahead from morning till night.

'But three days went by, and we had no luck. Oh, it was terrible! My little Veruca got more and more upset each day, and every time I went home she would scream at me, "Where's my Golden Ticket! I want my Golden Ticket!" And she would lie for hours on the floor, kicking and yelling in the most disturbing way. Well, I just hated to see my little girl feeling unhappy like that, so I vowed I would keep up the search until I'd got her what she wanted. Then suddenly . . . on the evening of the fourth day, one of my women workers yelled, "I've got it! A Golden Ticket!" And I said, "Give it to me, quick!" and she did, and I rushed it home and gave it to my darling Veruca, and now she's all smiles, and we have a happy home once again.'

TASKS

1. Match the words on the left column with their correct meaning, on the right column, having the text above as a support.

1. (to) Beam	a. a block of solid substance.
2. (to) Wave	b. to cook with dry heat, usually in an oven.
3. Grin	c. to radiate light; shine.
4. Bar	d. to smile broadly, often displaying the teeth.
5. (to) Shell	e. to signal or express something by moving an object held in the hand.
6. (to) Yank	f. to remove the surface of an object.
7. Wrapper	g. the material in which an object is covered.
8. (to) Roast	h. to pull or move with a sharp movement.

2. Use 5 of the words above to create sentences of your own.

3. Put the letters in the following words into the correct order and write them into the gaps. All the words are related to desserts or sweets that children usually enjoy.

e.g.: nobbon – bonbon

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| a. ipe-..... | f. dotun..... |
| b. caek..... | g. cie cearm |
| c. cadny | h. miffun |
| d. cohclateo rab | i. pdduing |
| e. cockoie | j. trat..... |

4. Why do you think that from all the desserts and sweets above, the author chose to use the chocolate for his book? Which would you prefer?

5. Choose the correct answers to the following questions, according to the fragment:

I. Where was the new lucky winner of the ticket announced?

- a. TV
- b. Internet
- c. newspaper
- d. magazine

II. Who helped Veruca Salt win the Golden Ticket?

- a. Mr. Wonka
- b. her father
- c. Charlie Bucket
- d. her mother

III. What kind of factory does Mr. Salt, Veruca's father, own?

- a. chocolate factory
- b. candy factory
- c. gum factory
- d. peanut factory

IV. Who found the ticket?

- a. Mr. Salt
- b. Veruca
- c. a worker
- d. Mr. Wonka

V. How many bars of chocolate did Mr. Salt buy until the ticket was found?

- a. hundreds of thousands
- b. one hundred
- c. 10
- d. 3

6. Make a brief characterization of Veruca Salt, in terms of attitude and behaviour. (5 lines)

7. Are there any children like Veruca nowadays? Is she a role model for children? Who do you think is guilty for her exaggerated behaviour: she or her parents?
8. Try to make a short advertisement for Mr. Wonka's chocolate, in which to use as many adjectives as possible and also a motto, in order to convince the people to buy the product. Originality is appreciated!
9. Consider yourself a newspaper journalist who was to write about the second Golden Ticket found. Try to make a short newspaper article in which to announce this event. Give a catchy title to your article! (5-10 lines)
10. Take in consideration that Mr. Wonka's chocolate factory is in fact a world built of chocolate. How do you imagine this world? How do you think the trees, the grass, the hills or the rivers look like? Can they be eaten? Describe it in a few lines. In order to find out how Mr. Wonka's chocolate world really looks like, and which of the five children wins the greatest prize, you are invited to read the whole book.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

1. I. c 5. f
2. e 6. h
3. d 7. g
4. a 8. b

2. After finding out that he won the great prize, he had a big grin on his face.

He had just a bar of chocolate for breakfast.

We used a pink-coloured paper as a wrapper for her birthday present.

Roasted chicken is my favourite type of food.

John waved his money in front of everyone, in order to show that he won the lottery.

3. a. ipe – pie f. dotun – donut
- b. caek – cake g. cie cearm – ice cream
- c. cadny – candy h. miffun – muffin
- d. cohclateo rab – chocolate bar i. pdduing – pudding
- e. cokoie – cookie j. trat – tart

4. Here, any opinion which is well supported with arguments is welcome. Maybe, the author chose chocolate because it is one of the most popular types of dessert, especially loved by children and the characters of this book are mainly children.

5. I. c
- II. b
- III. d
- IV. c
- V. a

6. Veruca Salt is obviously the type of spoiled and pampered child, who was offered everything from an early age. Her parents, instead of being her tutors, became her servants and tried to fulfil all her extreme desires. She manages to control her parents and when her wishes are not accomplished, she starts reacting violently, venting her rage at her parents. She is so selfish and she needs so much that Golden Ticket that all the

workers have to stop their job and unwrap the bars of chocolate just for her. Even though she can have as much chocolate as she needs, she is still desperate to win the ticket.

7. Unfortunately, there are lots of children nowadays such as Veruca, and of course she is not a model, but rather an anti-model for children. If we are to think who is guilty for her behaviour, it is clearly a matter of education or more properly said lack of education. Her parents are those who allow her to behave improperly and moreover they fulfil her every wish without any question. Therefore, the parent's intention to offer their daughter what is best, degenerated into spoiling and losing her control.
8. Here any student may come with a surprising idea as long as it is coherent and fulfils the initial role of persuasion.
9. Again students are allowed to use their imagination, but under the rules of journalistic style.
10. This last point is totally subjective and almost any idea is welcome, especially if it is original.