

# CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

BY ROALD DAHL

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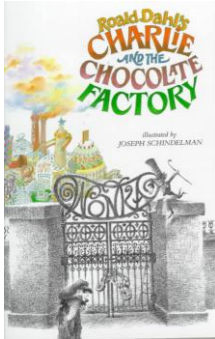


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# Summary

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For the first time in a decade, Willy Wonka, the reclusive and eccentric chocolate maker, is opening his doors to the public--well, five members of the public to be exact. The lucky five who find a Golden Ticket in their Wonka chocolate bars will receive a private tour of the factory, given by Mr. Wonka himself. For young Charlie Bucket, this a dream come true. And, when he finds a dollar bill in the street, he can't help but buy two Wonka's Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delights--even though his impoverished family could certainly use the extra dollar for food. But as Charlie unwraps the second chocolate bar, he sees the glimmer of gold just under the wrapper! The very next day, Charlie, along with his unworthy fellow winners Mike Teavee, Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregarde, and Augustus Gloop, steps through the factory gates to discover whether or not the rumors surrounding the Chocolate Factory and its mysterious owner are true. What they find is that the gossip can't compare to the extraordinary truth, and for Charlie, life will never be the same again. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, another unforgettable masterpiece from the legendary Roald Dahl, never fails to delight, thrill, and utterly captivate.

Source: amazon.com



## About the Author

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Roald Dahl was born in Wales, England in 1916. His parents were Norwegian but were living in Britain because his father was a shipbroker. He had one brother and four sisters and when he was seven years old; he went to Llandaff Cathedral School. Two years later he became a boarder at St Peter's School in Weston-super-Mare - and then at 13 he moved to Repton School, in Derbyshire. Roald Dahl was not interested in going to university. He wanted to travel and so joined the Shell Oil Company with the ambition of becoming part of their foreign staff. In 1938 he got his wish to go abroad - the company sent him to Mombasa, in Kenya, where he sold oil to the owners of diamond mines and sisal plantations. In 1939, when World War II broke out, he joined the RAF in Nairobi and learned to fly aircraft. He was sent to Cairo, and then ordered to go into the Libyan desert, ready for action. It was here that his plane crashed, leaving him with spinal injuries from which he was to suffer all his life. After convalescence in an Alexandria hospital, he rejoined his squadron and saw action in Greece, Crete, Palestine and the Lebanon. In 1942, after a short stay in England, he was posted to Washington as an assistant air attaché at the British Embassy. There he met the author CS Forrester who was instrumental in getting Dahl's first short story, *The Gremlins*, published. The book attracted the attention of Walt Disney, who soon invited him to Hollywood to write the script for the film version. In 1952, Dahl met actress Patricia Neal. They were married in the following year and returned to England to live at Gipsy House in the village of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. He lived there for the rest of his life. Dahl and his wife had five children - Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy. But between 1960-65 tragedy struck the Dahl family. Baby Theo was brain-damaged in a traffic accident, Olivia died from a complication of measles and then Patricia suffered a stroke. It was during these years that *James and the Giant Peach* (1961) and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964) were published. In the late 1970s Dahl met Quentin Blake, who was to illustrate his latest story, *The Enormous Crocodile*. This collaboration marked the beginning of a flourishing partnership. In 1983 he won the Children's Book Award for *The BFG* and the Whitbread Award for *The Witches*. He won the Children's Book Award again in 1989 with *Matilda*. In 1983 Patricia Neal and Dahl divorced. Later that year, Dahl married Felicity D'Abreu, with who he was to remain for the rest of his life. Roald Dahl died in 1990 at the age of 74.

Source: teacher's resources section on [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com), written by Anne Faundez



# Book Review

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Rarely, if ever, has a morality tale been dressed up in such an entertaining story. Dahl clearly has a point to make here, but never does the reader feel he is preaching; he's just reveling in giving spoiled kids their most perfectly just comeuppance. Famous for his nasty characters, Dahl has peopled these pages with some highly memorable bad children. Readers everywhere love to laugh with glee at their crazy behavior--and its consequences. Joseph Schindelman's warm and quirky illustrations perfectly match the characters, and are far superior to those of Quentin Blake in this edition.

In the best fairy-tale tradition, Dahl doesn't hide the fact that the world can be a grim and unfair place. Charlie's depressing life of poverty at the beginning of the novel reflects this bleak view. Poor Charlie Bucket is practically starving to death, but his luck changes for the better when he wins a lifetime supply of candy--and a chance to visit Willy Wonka's fabulous, top-secret chocolate factory. Five lucky people who find a Golden Ticket wrapped in one of Willy Wonka's wonderful candy bars win a visit to his mysterious chocolate factory. Charlie Bucket is too poor to buy more than one candy bar a year, so when he wins a ticket, his whole family celebrates.

Also in the best fairy-tale tradition, Dahl appeals to the strong sense of natural justice in children, and invites them to revel in a marvelously imagined world where people, both good and bad, get exactly what they deserve. In this case, the imagined world is the chocolate factory, where elfin factory workers, known as Oompa-Loompas, row Charlie, Grandpa Joe, and the others down a chocolate river in a yacht made out of a giant pink boiled sweet. It's a marvelous world where they make "eatable marshmallow pillows," "hot ice cream for cold days," "fizzy lifting drinks" that make you float, and "rainbow drops" that let you "spit in six different colors." And, in the end, it's just the place for Charlie where there's a wonderful surprise waiting at the end of the tour. This charming, irreverent tale, one of Roald Dahl's best, has captivated children for more than thirty years.

Source: Reviewed By: [Stephany Aulenback](#) on [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org)



# Discussion Questions

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1. At the beginning of the book, Charlie's feelings about chocolate were described in this quote: "Many times a day, he would see other children taking creamy candy bars out of their pockets and munching them greedily; and that, of course, was pure torture." (p. 6) In your life, has there ever been a time when you wanted something so badly it hurt? What was it and how did it feel?
2. Explain the relationship Charlie has with his grandparents. How does he feel about them? How are his feelings different for different individuals, and why?
3. What qualities does Charlie have that make him the hero of this story? Would you want to have a friend like Charlie?
4. How do Charlie's parents positively influence his upbringing despite their lack of money?
5. Were you able to predict which child would win the chocolate factory? If so, what were the clues that helped you to figure it out?
6. What kind of child is Mr. Wonka looking for to run his factory?
7. Describe Mr. Wonka's character. Is he a good and caring person, or a selfish and snobby person? Would you want to meet him? Why or why not?
8. How do you think Charlie Bucket feels towards other children who have an extraordinary amount of money and get as much chocolate as they want? Do you think he wants these children's lives? Why?
9. What would have happened if Augustus, Violet, Veruca, and Mike won the chocolate factory instead of Charlie?
10. Many people say that "Good things come to those who wait" and "Good things come in small packages." Do you think this is true for Charlie? Why or why not?
11. In your own experience, would you agree with the statement, "We are a great deal luckier than we realize, we usually get what we want – or near enough"? (p.38) Why or why not?



## Author Article

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### Did you know?

When Dahl was in school, he and his schoolmates occasionally served as new-product testers for the Cadbury chocolate company. Dahl used to dream of working in a chocolate manufacturer's inventing room. He wrote in his autobiography, "I have no doubt at all that, 35 years later, when I was looking for a plot for my second book for children, I remembered those little cardboard boxes and the newly invented chocolates inside them, and I began to write a book called *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*."

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#### **"The Chocolate Revolution"**

This article appeared in the September 7, 1997 issue of Sunday Magazine.

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*The joys of milk flakes, chew bars and energy balls are the stuff of dreams, writes Roald Dahl.*

Today, chocolate-guzzling begins when a child is about five and goes on until the guzzler is 12. After which, with the advent of puberty, there is a gradual decline in consumption.

Things were different when I was young. I grew up in the 20s and the chocolate revolution had not begun. There were very few delicious chocolate bars to tempt us. That's why sweet shops were called sweet shops and not chocolate shops.

When I was young, there was Cadbury's Bournville and Dairy Milk. There was the Dairy Milk Flake (the only great invention so far) and Whipped Cream Walnut, and there were also four different flavors of chocolate-coated Marshmallow Bar (vanilla, coffee, rose, lemon).

Consequently, we were much more inclined to spend our money on sweets and toffees or on sherbet-suckers, gobstoppers, liquorice bootlaces and aniseed balls – we did not



mind that the liquorice was made from rats' blood and the sherbet from sawdust. They were cheap and to us, they tasted good.

Then came the revolution and the entire world of chocolate was suddenly turned upside down in the space of seven glorious years. Here is a summary of what happened.

- **1876:** Chocolate was first used by the Spaniards, Italians and French in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century but only as a drink.

Then, in 1876, a Swiss chap called Peters mixed chocolate powder with sugar and condensed milk and made a solid bar.

Chocolate as we know it was invented.

- **1905:** Cadbury got in on the act and began production of milk bars, starting with Dairy Milk.

- **1920:** The first specialty chocolate bar, the Dairy Milk Flake, was invented. This was a milestone, the first time any manufacturer had seriously played with chocolate in their inventing rooms.

- **1928:** Cadbury's Fruit and Nut bar popped up on the scene.

From 1930 to 1937 virtually all the great classic chocolate bars were invented and they are still on the best seller list.

- **1930:** Frys invented the Crunchie.

- **1932:** Mars appeared. In Chicago, a man whose name was Mr Mars, owned a small factory that had been making the Milky Way bar for a number of years. In fact, he had invented it himself.

When his son, Forrest, finished his education as an industrial engineer at Yale, his dad said to him: "Son, there ain't room for two of us in this little business of mine." So, he gave him US\$5,000 (RM 13,500) and the recipe for Milky Way.

The younger Mars made his way to Slough in England, intent on making a "chew bar", so he placed a strip of soft caramel on top and then coated it with chocolate. But it is not easy to make chocolate stick to caramel, as Cadbury discovered when, some time later, it made the Curly Wurly. The chocolate kept flaking off. Parents complained that it went all over the carpet, and the Curly Wurlys were withdrawn.

But Forrest Mars had the secret, and the Mars Bar was born. It swept the world, the first ever chewy bar. And very soon 600 million were being eaten every year in England alone. That is 10 per year per person.

- **1933:** Black Magic appeared in boxes and, for some reason it is still a best seller.
- **1935:** The wonderful Aero was introduced.
- **1936:** Don't forget Forrest Mars. In spite of the phenomenal success of his Mars Bar, he continued experimenting in his laboratory. He took a pea-sized pellet of dough flavored with malted milk and exploded it inside a vacuum. Then he coated the result with sweet milk chocolate, and hey presto, another classic beauty was born! At first, Forrest Mars gave these the charming name of Energy Balls but this made the public smile, so he changed the name to Maltesers.

At the time of writing, Forrest Mars is very much alive. His business is now enormous but has remained a family-run concern, so Forrest is not answerable to any stockholders.

He is, therefore, free to run things as he likes, and the way he likes is to treat his employees as one big happy family.

Everyone shares in the profits – the employees can get a rise every four weeks provided sales have gone up in that period.

- **1937:** Another golden year – Kit Kats, Rolos and Smarties were invented. Some 10,000 million Smarties are gobbled up every year in the UK alone. This includes the eight a day (four after lunch, four after supper) that our dog Chopper consumes.

So there you have it. In music, the equivalent would be the golden age of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. In painting, it was the equivalent of the Italian Renaissance and the advent of the Impressionism at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; in literature, Tolstoy, Balzac and Dickens.

Cadbury's, after an enormous amount of market research, found out that what the public liked was not a sharp minty or sugary flavor, but something bland, almost tasteless. It learned this by studying the success of Heinz Baked Beans.

So it invented a bland, tasteless bar, which were actually two bars. The company called it the Double Decker which sold more than 160 million.

But this was nothing compared with the sales of the blandest and most disgusting thing of all, the I Egg. Between Christmas and Easter, Cadbury sells 350 million of these fondant-filled horrors. I won't eat them. Nobody I know eats them. But somebody obviously does, by the bucketful.

The most luxurious chocolate-makers in the world are Fortnum and Mason in Piccadilly. The fifth floor is redolent with delicious smells. Everything is made by hand. Fondant centers are blobbed by hand into soft holes pressed into trays of loose starch, allowing a natural set of 24 hours. The chocolates are all dipped by hand.

For the record, I am not overly fond of chocolate-flavored foods such as chocolate cake and chocolate ice-cream. I prefer my chocolate straight.

Source: [www.roalddahlfans.com](http://www.roalddahlfans.com)

## Further Reading

If you liked *CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY* by Roald Dahl, you might like the following books, too!

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### ***GREAT STORIES:***

***THE BFG*** by Roald Dahl

***THE BORROWERS*** by Mary Norton

***BOY*** by Roald Dahl

***CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR*** by Roald Dahl

***FROM THE MIXED UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER*** by E.L. Konigsburg

***HARRIET THE SPY*** by Louise Fitzhugh

***JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH*** by Roald Dahl

***MATILDA*** by Roald Dahl

***STUART LITTLE*** by E.B. White

***THE WITCHES*** by Roald Dahl

### ***LEARN MORE:***

***BEANS TO CHOCOLATE*** by Inez Snyder

***CHOCK FULL OF CHOCOLATE*** by Elizabeth MacLeod

***CHOCOLATE*** by Claire Llewellyn

***CHOCOLATE: A SWEET HISTORY*** by Sandra Markle

***CHOCOLATE BY HERSHEY*** by Betty Burford

***CHOCOLATE: RICHES FROM THE RAINFOREST*** by Robert Burleigh

***CHOCOLATES AND CANDIES TO MAKE*** by Rebecca Gilpin

***THE OFFICIAL M&M'S HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE*** by Karen Pellaton

***ROALD DAHL'S REVOLTING RECIPES*** by Roald Dahl

***THE STORY OF CHOCOLATE*** by C.J. Polin

Check out Roald Dahl's official web site:

[www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com)