



Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Study Guide

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka is a musical based on the book *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl (pronounced ROW-all DOLL). Lyrics and Music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, and adapted for the Stage by Tim McDonald and Leslie Bricusse.

Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this stage adaptation of "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory," which features the songs from the classic family film "Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory", as well as several new songs.

Short Summary

Willy Wonka owns a magical and mysterious chocolate factory. Although he excels at making candy, he would like to retire. He hopes to find the right person to take his place. Charlie Bucket's family is poor. They do not have enough money to buy food, warm clothes, much less candy. Charlie dreams of making chocolate bars, just like his father, grandfather, and grandmother used to. Everyone, but especially Charlie, is excited to learn that Willy Wonka has started a contest. The five lucky people who find golden tickets inside Wonka chocolate bars get a tour of the chocolate factory and a lifetime supply of chocolate. Charlie wants badly to win, but cannot afford to buy candy.

At the last minute, Charlie finds the final golden ticket. He joins the other winners—Augustus, Violet, Veruca, and Mike—on a fantastical tour of Wonka's chocolate factory. Wonka's workers, the Oompa Loompas, make the tempting treats. During the tour, each child breaks Wonka's rules. Before Charlie leaves, he admits to Wonka that he broke the rules. Moved by Charlie's truthfulness, Wonka gives Charlie an incredible gift...

Themes

The musical touches on several themes. The themes of the musical come out in the words and the music.

- Imagination
- Greed
- Telling the truth
- Thinking positive
- Consequences - The factory workers, the Oompa Loompas, teach a lesson to each of the five young visitors through song. Here is the last verse that is repeated each time. The second line (the lesson) changes for each child:

*Oompa Loompa doom pa dee dah
If you're not greedy, you will go far!
(Given good manners, you will go far!)
(If you're not spoiled, you will go far!)
(If you are honest, you will go far!)
You will live in happiness, too!
Like the Oompa-Loompa, doom pa dee do*

Main Characters

The children who find the golden tickets and tour the chocolate factory. Each child is accompanied by a guardian (mother, father, or grandfather).

- **Charlie Bucket** – a quiet boy who requires little and has a big imagination
- **Augustus Gloop** – a boy who has a large appetite for life
- **Veruca Salt** – a fiercely determined girl who wants it all
- **Violet Beauregarde** – a bubbly, larger than life girl who loves chewing gum
- **Mike Teavee** – a boy who is obsessed with television and technology

Charlie Bucket's family

- **Mrs. Bucket** - Charlie's mother
- Charlie's four grandparents
 - **Grandpa Joe** - Charlie's favorite and goes on the tour with him.
 - **Grandma Josephine**
 - **Grandpa George** – hard of hearing
 - **Grandma Georgina**

People in the chocolate factory

- **Willy Wonka** – the eccentric owner of the factory
- **The Oompa Loompas** – factory workers

Others

- **The Candy Man** – the man who works at the candy shop. He is kind to Charlie.
- **Phineous Trout** – a news reporter
- **Five ensemble groups:**
 - Suckers (Dory, Sophie, Billy Jean, Willow, Matilda, James, Keane, Danny, Alfie)
 - Nut-a-riffics
 - Chocolate Kisses
 - Gumballs
 - Carmel Drops

Plot Overview [including songs]

ACT ONE

Willy Wonka owns a fabulous chocolate factory. Wonka, a famous, eccentric, mercurial, whimsical candy wizard is planning to retire, and the time has come to choose his successor [GOLDEN AGE OF CHOCOLATE].

The Bucket family is very poor. In their very small house live Mrs. Bucket, the boy Charlie, and Charlie's four bedridden grandparents. Charlie's Grandpa Joe assures Charlie that Charlie is destined to work for Mr. Wonka making candy, just as Joe himself did as a young man. Unfortunately, Wonka fired all his workers years ago (after one of his candy recipes had been stolen and sold to his competitor Slugworth) and locked the gates of his factory forever. Mysteriously, however, Wonka's factory has continued to produce candy. But nobody ever goes in...and nobody ever comes out.

A group of children gather outside Charlie's house, each clutching a nickel to buy a Wonka bar from the local Candy Man [CANDY MAN]. Charlie is the only child too poor to buy any candy, but the Candy Man treats him to a lollipop and a copy of yesterday's newspaper.

Charlie takes the paper home, and the Buckets learn from it that Wonka has announced a contest: five lucky children will receive a tour of his world-famous factory, and receive a lifetime supply of Wonka chocolate. Five Golden Tickets have been hidden among fifty million ordinary candy bars, and the finders of these tickets will win the tour and the chocolate.

The first Ticket is found by Augustus Gloop, an obese, gluttonous child from Frankfurt, Germany [I EAT MORE]. The second Ticket is found in Sao Paulo, Brazil, by an extremely spoiled girl named Veruca Salt. Her wealthy father, a macadamia nut magnate, had purchased hundreds of thousands of the candy bars and put his entire factory workforce to work searching for the ticket.

As the mania for Wonka Bars continues all over the world, Mrs. Bucket loses her job at a toothpaste factory. Charlie is discouraged by a bleaker outlook and his mother encourages him not to give up hope [THINK POSITIVE].

On Charlie's birthday, his family presents him with a Wonka Bar. Everyone manages to suppress his or her disappointment when Charlie unwraps the bar but does not find a Golden Ticket.

The third Ticket is found in Snellville, Georgia by Violet Beauregard, an abrasive girl who is constantly chewing gum. The fourth Ticket is found in Television City, California by Mike Teavee, a boy who seems more interested in television, video games and cell phones than touring Wonka's factory [I SEE IT ALL ON TV].

That night, before Charlie goes to bed, Grandpa Joe reveals that he has secretly purchased another Wonka Bar for Charlie. They open the bar together, but it contains only chocolate. The Buckets tell Charlie not to be discouraged [CHEER UP, CHARLIE].

As winter approaches, the Bucket's situation is becoming increasingly desperate. Charlie is helping the Candy Man pack his wares when he finds a silver dollar on the ground. He assumes that it must belong to the Candy Man and tries to return it, but the Candy Man assures Charlie that it isn't his, and tells Charlie to bring it home to his family. He also gives Charlie a Wonka Bar as a reward for his honesty. Charlie buys another Wonka Bar to share with his family. Charlie unwraps the candy and discovers that he has found the last of Wonka's prizes. Charlie chooses Grandpa Joe to accompany him on the factory tour, prompting Joe to leave his bed for the first time in years. [I'VE GOT A GOLDEN TICKET]

ACT TWO

The five winners and their chaperones are gathered at the gates of Wonka's factory, where he makes a spectacular entrance. Wonka greets each child (apart from Charlie, each one is insufferable in his or her own way). Wonka forces everyone to sign an elaborate and cryptic contract before beginning the tour.

The tour finally begins, and Wonka describes a dizzying array of fabulous chambers and exotic rooms, each devoted to the creation of various sweets and treats [IN THIS ROOM HERE].

Wonka leads the tour group through a chamber in which the walls and ceiling appear to be closing in around them, and tells them that they are about to enter the nerve center of the factory. They emerge in

the chocolate smelting room, featuring a chocolate river and a network of pipes [PURE IMAGINATION]. Wonka introduces his workers, the Oompa-Loompas. Augustus falls into the chocolate river and is sucked into a large pipe. Wonka directs the Oompa-Loompas to take Mrs. Gloop and retrieve Augustus. The Oompa-Loompas share a moral message about the dangers of gluttony [OOMPA-LOOMPA ONE].

Wonka and the remaining guests board a pink candy boat. Veruca Salt demands that her father buy her both the boat and one of the Oompa-Loompas. Salt attempts to buy them from Wonka, but Wonka is unimpressed. The boat ride then turns into a psychedelic nightmare as Wonka navigates them through what appears to be a tour of the darker aspects of human imagination, complete with frightening projected images [THERE'S NO KNOWING]. Wonka laughs maniacally and the others scream with horror until the boat abruptly vanishes and the party finds themselves in Wonka's Inventing Room.

In the Inventing Room, Wonka reveals one of his creations - the Everlasting Gummy Gourmet Gobstopper, an entire gourmet meal contained in a piece of gum. Heedless of Wonka's warnings that the gum is not yet perfected, Violet is unable to resist it [CHEW IT] and is transformed into a blueberry and apparently explodes. The Oompa-Loompas share a warning about the evils of excessive gum chewing [OOMPA-LOOMPA TWO].

Wonka and the remaining guests proceed to the Fizzy Lifting Drink Room, which is filled with bubbles. Wonka informs everyone that the drink will cause the imbiber to float on air, but forbids anyone to partake. Charlie and Grandpa Joe linger behind after the others leave, and the Oompa-Loompas tempt them to sample the drink. They do so, and immediately rise into the air [FLYING]. Unfortunately, they soon find that they're in danger of being sucked into a giant fan on the roof of the room. However, they discover that burping reverses the effects of the drink, and, via a series of belches, they are able to descend back to the ground [BURPING SONG].

Charlie and Grandpa Joe rejoin the others in the Nut Room, where a team of squirrels is busy sorting good nuts from bad nuts. Veruca immediately demands a squirrel, and launches into an extended spoiled tantrum [I WANT IT NOW!]. She is deemed a "Bad Nut" and falls down one of the sorting shoots, pursued immediately by her father. Wonka has lost another candidate. The Oompa-Loompas share a moral about the ills of spoiling children [OOMPA-LOOMPA THREE].

Wonka and the dwindling group proceed to the Choco-Vision Room. Wonka explains that he is currently developing an experimental process for transmitting chocolate via television. He explains how to activate the experimental machinery but warns everyone not to do so. Naturally, Mike immediately activates the equipment and transports himself via television signal. This results in Mike being shrunk to tiny size. Wonka directs that he be taken to the taffy-pulling machine and stretched out. The Oompa-Loompas warn of the perils of excessive television viewing [OOMPA-LOOMPA FOUR].

With only Charlie and Grandpa Joe remaining, Wonka abruptly announces that the tour is over. He pronounces that the day has been "a total waste of time and chocolate." Before going, Charlie confesses that he and Grandpa Joe tasted the fizzy lifting drink, and states that he therefore doesn't deserve the lifetime supply of chocolate he was promised. He apologizes to Wonka and thanks him for the tour. Wonka stops Charlie from leaving and announces that the entire competition was devised with the goal of finding his successor, and that Charlie's behavior and honesty prove that he should take over the factory. Wonka then launches them into the air in a flying glass elevator [FLYING REPRISE].

Augustus, Violet, Veruca and Mike appear, restored to their former selves, and join the Oompa-Loompas in praising the virtue of honesty [OOMPA-LOOMPA FIVE].

Wonka informs Charlie that his entire family is welcome to come and live at the factory. Charlie is delighted to take on his new role as Wonka's handpicked successor [FINALE].

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

1. *Golden Age Of Chocolate* – Suckers, Nut-a-riffics
2. *The Candy Man* - Charlie/Suckers/Nut-a-riffics/Candy Man/Candyman's Assistant
3. *I Eat More!* - Augustus/Mrs. Gloop/Phineous/Chocolate Kisses
4. *Think Positive* - Mrs. Bucket/Charlie
5. *You're Never Fully Dressed* (excerpt) - Gumballs
6. *I See It All on TV* - Mike Teavee/Ms. Teavee/Dory/Carmel Drops
7. *Cheer Up, Charlie* - Mrs. Bucket/Grandpa Joe/Grandma Josephine/Grandpa George/Grandma Georgina
8. *Think Positive Reprise* - Charlie Bucket
9. *I've Got A Golden Ticket* - Charlie Bucket/Grandpa Joe/Company

ACT TWO

1. *In This Room Here* - Willy Wonka/Charlie/Grandpa Joe/Kids/Parents
2. *Pure Imagination* - Willy Wonka
3. *Oompa-Loompa 1* - Chocolate Kisses
4. *There's No Knowing* - Willy Wonka/Charlie/Grandpa Joe/Kids/Parents/Suckers
5. *Chew It* - Violet/Willy Wonka/Charlie/Grandpa Joe/Kids/Gumballs
6. *Oompa-Loompa 2* - Gumballs
7. *Flying* - Charlie/Grandpa Joe
8. *Burping Song* - Charlie/Grandpa Joe
9. *I Want It Now!* - Veruca Salt
10. *Oompa-Loompa 3* - Nut-a-riffics
11. *Oompa-Loompa 4* - Carmel Drops
12. *Flying Reprise* - Willy Wonka/Charlie/Grandpa Joe
13. *Oompa-Loompa & Candy Dreams* - COMPANY
14. *Finale* - COMPANY

Books by Roald Dahl

You have probably read other books by **Roald Dahl**. Here is a list of some of his books. How many have you already read? How many more will you read?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator
James and the Giant Peach
George's Marvellous Medicine
Fantastic Mr Fox
My Year
The BFG

The Magic Finger
The Enormous Crocodile
The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me
The Twits
The Witches
The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More
Danny and the Champion of the World
Matilda

Vocabulary

Descended - to originate or come from a stock or source.

Grandpa Joe: *You gotta remember that Charlie's **descended** from a long line of distinguished candy men.*

Ordinary – describing something usual; regular.

Mrs. Bucket: *Five Golden Tickets have been hidden among fifty million **ordinary** candy bars.*

The odds - the likelihood of something occurring or being true.

Grandpa Joe: *That's a ten million-to-one shot! Wow! I don't like **the odds!***

Mania – a state of great excitement or enthusiasm.

Phineous Trout: *Wonka **mania** has sales topping 25,000 bars every hour!*

Extraordinary – Beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable.

Dory: *Stay tuned for continuous coverage of this **extraordinary** contest.*

Philanthropic – characterized by goodwill to fellowmen; generously giving to other people.

Dory: *How **philanthropic!***

Inventory – the quantity of goods or materials in a store.

The Candy Man: *I'd give ya' another one, but the boss is pretty strict about **inventory.***

Catastrophe – a tragic event ranging from extreme misfortune to utter ruin; utter failure.

Charlie (singing): *I never thought my life could be anything but **catastrophe!***

Emerge – to appear or come into view.

Danny: *Wonka himself will soon **emerge** from behind these mysterious gates right on the hour.*

Negotiate – to discuss to try to reach a decision that all can accept.

Mrs. Beauregarde: *Do we need to **negotiate?***

Luminous – producing light.

Willy Wonka (singing): *In this room here are the **luminous** lollies*

Rivals – someone or something that competes against another.

Willy Wonka (singing): *Driving **rivals** to despair!*

Vertigo – a sensation of motion when a person is not moving; a dizzy confused state of mind.

Willy Wonka (singing): *Slowly getting **vertigo!***

Edgar Allen Poe – an American writer, known for his tales of mystery.

Willy Wonka (singing): *It's no mystery where we're going unlike **Edgar Allen Poe!***

Suet – hard fat from the body of cattle and sheep, used in cooking and in making candles and soap.

Mrs. Beauregarde (singing): *Blueberry blue and fat as **suet!***

Incinerator – a container in which garbage and other waste materials are burned.

Willy Wonka: *That particular chute leads to the garbage **incinerator.***

Math Connections

1. Make a graph based upon students' favorite candy bars.
2. Estimate how many candy bars you would need to fulfill a lifetime supply of chocolate.
Estimate how much are needed per day, per week, per year. Guess at how long you'll live.
3. If you used Willy Wonka's Chocolate Television, everything would shrink. If you shrunk to $\frac{1}{6}$ of your original size, how tall would you be?