

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

These questions are designed to help you think carefully about the beginning of the story. Try to use evidence from the text to help you answer clearly.

Chapters 1 and 2

1. Where does Charlie Bucket live?
2. Why was life 'uncomfortable' for the Bucket family?
3. Why do you think Charlie always ate his birthday chocolate slowly?
4. Why do the grandparents' faces 'light up' when they see Charlie?
5. How does Roald Dahl introduce his characters?
6. Does this opening make you want to read more? Explain why.
7. Can you find two good words that describe the chocolate factory?
8. Grandpa George describes Prince Pondicherry as 'completely dotty'. What does he mean?
9. Do you like the sound of Willy Wonka? Explain your answer.
10. Do you think Roald Dahl feels sorry for Charlie? Explain why.
11. What type of story do you think this is going to be and why?
12. Can you describe the setting of the story?

Remember to write in full sentences and lay out your work clearly.



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1. Can you describe where Charlie Bucket slept and what it was like?
2. Can you find a quotation to describe how hungry the family felt?
3. Why did Charlie 'treasure' his birthday chocolate like a bar of gold?
4. How do you think Mr Bucket felt working hard for not enough money?
5. Do you think Chapter 1 introduces the characters effectively? Why?
6. Does this opening make you want to read more? Explain why.
7. What similes does Roald Dahl use to describe the grandparents?
8. Grandpa Joe describes Willy Wonka as 'a magician with chocolate'. What does he mean? Does this make you want to read more?
9. What do you think this story is going to be about?
10. What do we learn about Charlie's character in the opening? Do you think Roald Dahl likes Charlie? Do you like Charlie?
11. What features of good story writing have you spotted already?
12. Do you think this is an interesting setting for a story? Explain why.



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Chapters 1 and 2

1. Describe in your own words why the Buckets couldn't buy a better house.
2. Can you find evidence to show Charlie made his grandparents happy?
3. Why does Charlie wish he could go inside the chocolate factory?
4. Why do you think the grandparents enjoy telling Charlie stories?
5. Is this an effective opening? What is particularly good about it?
6. How does Roald Dahl use the opening to give us clues about the story?
7. The word 'true' is used 6 times in Chapter 2. Why do you think this is?
8. Roald Dahl describes lots of tempting inventions in Chapter 2. Which one appeals most to you and why? Which vocabulary do you like?
9. Why do you think Roald Dahl introduces Willy Wonka through stories?
10. Do you think Charlie will be a good hero? Explain carefully.
11. What features of good story writing have you spotted already?
12. Describe in your own words the contrast between the two settings: Charlie Bucket's house and Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory.



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Answers - Chapters 1 and 2

1. Charlie lives in a small wooden house on the edge of a great town.
2. Life was 'uncomfortable' for the Bucket family because the house wasn't large enough for 6 grown-ups and Charlie – there are just two rooms and one bed.
3. Charlie always ate his birthday chocolate slowly so that it would last longer; he wanted to savour it.
4. The Grandparents' faces 'light up' when they see Charlie because they love him and they spend the rest of the day lying in bed not doing anything. Seeing him is the highlight of their day.
5. Roald Dahl introduces his characters as if he is talking directly to the reader and he uses names such as Grandpa Joe and Mr and Mrs Bucket.
6. Pupil's own response.
7. Accept two of the following: largest, famous, enormous, tremendous or marvellous.
8. 'Completely dotty' means that Prince Pondicherry is crazy or mad.
9. Pupil's own response.
10. Pupil's own response.
11. Pupil's own response.
12. The story is set in a 'great town' where there is Charlie Bucket's tiny wooden house at the edge and Willy Wonka's large chocolate factory, which was within sight of Charlie's home and which was on the way to his school.

Answers - Chapters 1 and 2

1. Charlie Bucket slept in the other room with his mother and father on mattresses on the floor. It was awful in the wintertime because freezing cold draughts blew across the floor.
2. 'Everyone of them... went about from morning till night with a horrible empty feeling in their tummies.'
3. Charlie treasured his birthday chocolate like a bar of gold because it was precious to Charlie. It was all he wanted because he was a lover of chocolate.
4. Pupil's own response.
5. Pupil's own response.
6. Pupil's own response.
7. 'shrivelled as prunes' and 'bony as skeletons'
8. This means that Willy Wonka could do unbelievable things with chocolate.
9. Pupil's own response.
10. In the opening of the story, we learn that Charlie is an only child who lives with a very poor family. He is always hungry and loves chocolate.
11. Pupil's own response.
12. Pupil's own response.

Answers - Chapters 1 and 2

1. The Bucket's couldn't buy a better house because Mr Bucket was the only one working and his wage was not enough to support 6 adults and a child.
2. Charlie is referred to as Grandpa Joe's 'beloved grandson' and it says in the text that his grandparents' faces would 'light up with smiles of pleasure' when Charlie spoke to them. It also says that 'he was the only bright thing in their lives.'
3. Charlie wishes he could go inside the chocolate factory because he loves chocolate and he loved the smell of it as he walked past. He also wanted to see what it was like inside.
4. The grandparents enjoy telling Charlie stories because they have nothing else to do all day apart from dozing in bed and they looked forward to his visits.
5. Pupil's own response.
6. In the opening, Roald Dahl gives us clues such as telling us how poor the family are and how much Charlie, in particular loved chocolate. He also gives clues about Willy Wonka and the chocolate factory to intrigue the reader.
7. I think that the word 'true' is used so many times to emphasise what the grandparents are saying about the factory and Willy Wonka.
8. Pupil's own response.
9. Roald Dahl introduces Willy Wonka through stories to make him sound like a legend that has been passed on from one person to another. It makes him seem more mysterious and interesting.
10. Pupil's own response.
11. Pupil's own response.
12. Pupil's own response.