

Name _____



Silly and Selfish

Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is filled with humor and exaggeration, making the story both entertaining and meaningful. Dahl uses these techniques to show what happens when people are greedy, rude, or selfish. By creating ridiculous characters and hilarious situations, he makes fun of bad behavior and teaches important lessons.

Each of the four children who visit Willy Wonka's factory (besides Charlie) has an exaggerated flaw. Augustus Gloop is so greedy that he eats nonstop, even when he's warned to stop. His love for food is so extreme that he falls into the chocolate river and gets stuck in a pipe. The image of a boy being sucked up a giant glass tube like a milkshake is silly, but it also shows that greed can lead to trouble.

Veruca Salt is the ultimate spoiled child. She screams, stomps, and demands that her parents give her everything she wants. Her exaggerated behavior makes her seem ridiculous, and her parents' weakness makes them look just as foolish. When she demands a trained squirrel from Wonka's factory, the squirrels decide she is a "bad nut" and toss her into the garbage chute. Dahl's humor makes fun of spoiled behavior, showing that demanding too much can lead to embarrassing consequences.

Violet Beauregarde is obsessed with being the best at everything. She chews gum all the time to break world records and refuses to listen to Wonka's warnings. When she eats an experimental gum, she swells up into a giant blueberry. The image of a huge, round, purple girl rolling around the factory is both hilarious and absurd. But it also shows the danger of ignoring warnings and being too competitive.

Mike Teavee is addicted to television and technology. He doesn't care about anything else and thinks he knows better than Wonka. When he jumps into Wonka's invention that sends chocolate through a TV, he ends up shrinking to the size of a tiny action figure. Dahl exaggerates his obsession with TV to show how too much screen time can make someone small—not just in size, but in imagination and kindness.

By using humor and exaggeration, Dahl teaches valuable lessons. He makes readers laugh at the characters' extreme behavior while also showing how bad habits—like greed, selfishness, and arrogance—can lead to trouble. In the end, Charlie, the only kind and humble child, is rewarded, proving that good behavior is always the best choice.