

Chocolate Fever

by Robert Kimmel Smith

Classroom Favorites



Teacher's Guide by Laurie Rozakis, Ph.D.

A Perma-Bound Production

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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1 According to rumor, ten-year-old Henry Green was not born; he was hatched, fully grown, from a chocolate bean. This myth arose because Henry loves chocolate—in any and all forms. His kind parents indulge Henry's passion for the sweet, smooth confection. It's plain to everyone that Henry is hooked on chocolate. In fact, his family jokes that Henry likes his chocolate: "bitter, sweet, light, dark, and daily." The rest of the family eats a normal diet. His older sister Elizabeth and his older brother Mark are not addicted to chocolate; neither are Mr. and Mrs. Green. Astonishingly, all this chocolate doesn't harm Henry: it doesn't stunt his growth, cause his skin to erupt in acne, or even affect his stomach. In short, Henry and chocolate go together just fine.

Chap. 2 After popping a few extra chocolate kisses into his mouth (and his pocket, for later), Henry sets off for school. At the school yard, Henry plays for a few minutes with his best friend, Michael Burke, before entering the classroom. Henry has a strange feeling of anticipation, but he is unable to figure out what it might be.

The feeling stays with him in Mrs. Kimmelfarber's math class. Suddenly, Henry feels a strange sensation all over his body. While absently scratching his skin, Henry notices that he has broken out in little brown freckles!

Chap. 3 Mrs. Kimmelfarber takes a look at Henry's brown spots, questions him about them, and goes next door to ask her colleague, Phil Pangalos, about the spots. Mr. Pangalos decides that he better take a look at Henry's strange spots.

Back in the classroom, Mrs. Kimmelfarber and Mr. Pangalos realize that the spots are spreading—now Henry has them all over his face. More spots are erupting as the two teachers speak. Realizing his dire situation, Henry begins to cry.

Chap. 4 Mrs. Kimmelfarber takes Henry to Nurse Farthing. As Henry walks into the office, Nurse Farthing smells cocoa but can't figure out where the smell is coming from. More and more chocolate spots erupt. Soon, Henry is covered with little brown lumps.

Chap. 5 Terrified, Henry and Mrs. Kimmelfarber start screaming; Nurse Farthing, in contrast, stays cool. She orders Mrs. Kimmelfarber to call Henry's mother as they prepare to take Henry to the City Hospital. At the hospital, Dr. Fargo does a thorough examination and realizes the source of Henry's problem: Henry is a walking candy bar.

Chap. 6 As Dr. Fargo pokes Henry, he makes his diagnosis:

Chocolate Fever. This new disease, he decides, will make medical history. Terrified, Henry bolts down the corridor and runs through the streets, crying. He does not know where he is going, nor if he will ever be cured of his disease. He takes refuge in a deserted garage.

Chap. 7 Henry leaves the garage and walks to a school yard, where a gang of kids menace him, but Henry stands up to the bullies. Henry announces that he has a rare and mysterious illness. The boys have heard about Henry's rare illness—Chocolate Fever—on the radio. Denying that he is the real Henry Green, Henry bolts away.

Chap. 8 Henry finds himself on the highway and accepts a ride with a wise, kind black trucker named Mac. As Mac shares his supper, Henry tells Mac all about his Chocolate Fever and describes people's cruelty. Mac explains that he knows all about prejudice as a black man. Mac convinces Henry to call home.

Chap. 9 But just as Mac is about to go for the telephone, two robbers, Louie and Lefty, hijack the truck. Mac warns Henry to stay still and cooperate. The hijackers are astonished to find that Mac is transporting candy bars rather than the furs they had expected. Nonetheless, Lefty and Louie decide to take the truck to their hideout.

Chap. 10 They arrive at the hijackers' hideout, a deserted cabin in the woods. Suddenly, the group is attacked by an army of dogs, who lick Henry all over, lured by the rich chocolate smell of the cabin. The police apprehend the hijackers.

Chap. 11 Mac takes the truck to its original destination, Alfred "Sugar" Cane's candy warehouse. Mr. Cane reveals that he had also suffered from Chocolate Fever when he ate too much chocolate. Mr. Cane explains that "we can't have everything we want every time we want it" and gives Henry the cure for Chocolate Fever: vanilla pills.

Chap. 12 His lesson learned, Henry eats more balanced meals. Henry gets an award from Mr. Cane for helping to foil the robbery and Mac invites the Greens over for dinner. Nurse Farthing visits and Dr. Fargo wants to examine Henry again.

To his family's astonishment, Henry has maple syrup with cinnamon on his pancakes. Henry wonders if he could go overboard and catch "Cinnamon Fever."

BACKGROUND ON CHOCOLATE

Where did we get the word "chocolate"? *The Merriam Webster Dictionary* states that it came from the Aztec word "chocolatl." Many people believe that the Aztecs first developed chocolate in the 16th century. However, chocolate goes back farther.

The ancient Maya, who lived in parts of southern Mexico and

Central America, certainly ate and drank chocolate. In fact, the word "cacao" is Mayan: as early as 500 A.D., the Mayans were writing about cacao. Some think chocolate may be even older, dating back to the Olmec civilization that came before the Maya.

Mesoamericans consumed chocolate as a bitter-tasting drink made of ground cacao, water or wine, vanilla, pimiento, and chili pepper. Hernando Cortez, the conquerer of Mexico, is said to have tried the beverage but found it too bitter. He did, however, write to King Carlos I of Spain, calling "xocoatl" a "drink that builds up resistance and fights fatigue."

Christopher Columbus was the first European known to come in contact with cacao. In 1502, Columbus and his crew found a large dugout canoe off the coast of what is now Honduras. The canoe, the largest native vessel the Spaniards had seen, was filled with local goods for trade—including cacao beans. Columbus seized the ship and its goods.

What Columbus and his crew did not know at the time was that cocoa beans were the local currency. In fact, in some parts of Central America, cacao beans were used as currency as recently as the last century.

The Spanish King and his court did not understand the value of the cocoa bean. Twenty years later, Cortez, as part of the spoils of his conquest of Mexico, sent back three chests full of cacao beans. This time the beans were recognized as treasure.

The Spanish served chocolate as a beverage, but with a key change: the chili pepper was replaced by sugar. By the 1600s, the drink was popular among rich Europeans. As other countries challenged Spain's monopoly on cacao, chocolate became more widely available. Soon the French, English, and Dutch were growing cacao beans in their colonies in the Caribbean, and later, around the world. With more production came lower prices, and soon people all over Europe and America were enjoying chocolate.

As cacao became more commonly available, people began experimenting with new ways of using it. Chocolate began to appear in cakes, pastries, and ice cream. But it was not until 1828 that the "modern era" of chocolate making and production began.

That is when Dutch chocolate maker Conrad J. van Houten patented an inexpensive method for making cocoa powder. Today, his process is called "Dutching." Cocoa powder also made it possible to combine chocolate with sugar and then remix it with cocoa butter to create a solid. By 1849, English chocolate maker Joseph Storrs Fry produced what was arguably the world's first eating chocolate.

Two major developments in chocolate production occurred in 1879. First, Daniel Peter, a Swiss chocolate manufacturer, used powdered milk to make a new kind of chocolate, milk chocolate. Second, Rudolphe Lindt invented a process called "conching," which greatly improved the quality of chocolate candy by making it more blendable. The process of making fine chocolate has not changed much since the Swiss breakthroughs of the late 1800s.

Chocolate has been said to cause acne and tooth decay and has a reputation for being a fattening, nutritionless food. However, most of the bad effects of eating chocolate are either overstated or entirely false. Eating chocolate neither causes nor aggravates acne. Chocolate also has not been proven to cause cavities or tooth decay.

One of the most pleasant effects of eating chocolate is the

"good feeling" that many people experience after indulging. Scientists have been working on isolating specific chemicals in chocolate which may explain some of the pleasurable effects of eating it.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Kimmel Smith was born July 31, 1930, in Brooklyn, NY. He spent one year at Brooklyn College. Several years later, he served in the Army (1951-1953). Smith became a writer at the well-known advertising agency Doyle, Dane, Bernback in New York City. In 1957, he moved to Grey Advertising, and then to Smith & Toback. By this time, Smith had become a partner in the company.

In 1970, when he was forty, Smith decided to give full-time writing a shot. He hasn't looked back since. He published four novels within the next decade, and wrote three plays and a number of television scripts. Most of his writing is humorous.

Smith's first commercial success came with the publication of his 1973 novel *Sadie Shapiro's Knitting Book*. The book describes Sadie Shapiro, a slightly eccentric seventy-year-old woman who, while out jogging, meets Marian Wall, an editor with a failing publishing company. Inspired, Sadie composes a how-to book on knitting and submits it to Marian for publication. The book becomes famous, revitalizing Marian's career and launching Sadie onto the celebrity circuit. "Robert Kimmel Smith translates the banality of book promotion into broad, old-fashioned farce," says a reviewer for the *New York Times Book Review*. The novel won Smith an OPIE award in 1973, and earned a large enough audience to warrant two more books, *Sadie Shapiro in Miami* and *Sadie Shapiro, Matchmaker*.

By 1980, Smith said in a *Publishers Weekly* interview, "I had a liking for trying to write something bigger in scope than just Sadie Shapiro. I think I know how to tell a story and create real characters. I wanted to prove I could write a serious book, too." The result of this determination was *Jane's House*, published in 1982. Inspired by a serious injury suffered by Smith's wife, Claire, *Jane's House* is the story of a woman's abrupt death, and the efforts of her husband and children to live on without her. The house, which the late Jane had kept running smoothly, becomes the standard by which the widower and, later, his new bride, are judged, both by the children and themselves.

In recent years, Smith has concentrated almost exclusively on children's books. This type of writing is not new to him: in 1972 he wrote the award-winning *Chocolate Fever*, a book based upon one of his daughter's favorite bedtime stories. He has since received numerous other awards for children's literature, including the 1987 Mark Twain Award for *The War with Grandpa*.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Smith has gathered an impressive armload of awards for his children's books.

Chocolate Fever was awarded the Massachusetts Children's Book Award; *Jelly Belly* won the Young Hoosier Award, the Carolina Children's Book Award, and the Nene Award. *The War with Grandpa* won the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, South Carolina Children's Book Award, William Allen White Award, Mark Twain Award, and Pacific Northwest Young Readers Choice Award.

Reviewing *Chocolate Fever*, *Publishers Weekly* said: "It's all quite preposterous and lots of laughs, and so are the cartoon illustrations." Readers are equally enthusiastic.

"*Chocolate Fever* is not only a good book for kids to read, but really anyone if you like reading a good book every now and then. It has some hilarious lines to it and it'll keep you entertained throughout the story," said one young reader. "I totally recommend this book to the people who like adventure. With this book you can let your imagination fly and explore other worlds," said another child.

SMITH'S OTHER WORKS

novels

Bobby Baseball (1989)
Jane's House (1982)
Jelly Belly (1981)
Mostly Michael (1987)
Ransom (1971)
Sadie Shapiro's Knitting Book (1973)
Sadie Shapiro, Matchmaker (1979)
Sadie Shapiro in Miami (1977)
The Squeaky Wheel (1992)
The War with Grandpa (1984)

plays

A Little Dancing (1975)
Singing (1971)
Up in Smoke (1972)

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Contemporary Authors Online. Gale Group, 1999.
Los Angeles Times Book Review, July 25, 1982, p. 9.
New York Times Book Review, October 10, 1971, p. 46; July 16, 1972, p. 8; May 13, 1973, p. 39; April 26, 1981, p. 68; May 13, 1984, p. 21.
Observer, August 6, 1972, p. 25.
Times Literary Supplement, November 16, 1973, p. 1407; December 17, 1982, p. 1398.
Washington Post Book World, June 10, 1973, p. 15.
West Coast Review of Books, November, 1977, p. 27; November, 1982, p. 32.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize elements of fantasy
2. To assess each character's personality
3. To recognize the novel's theme
4. To appreciate the appeal of foods we like
5. To understand the novel's title
6. To explore the ways kindness can be shown
7. To find examples of bravery and courage
8. To sympathize with the main character's plight
9. To describe the novel's mood or atmosphere
10. To appreciate the novel's humor

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To understand how much Henry likes chocolate
2. To judge the affect of prejudice
3. To probe the relationship between Henry and Mac the truck driver
4. To see how Sugar Cane teaches Henry an important life lesson
5. To explore fantasy and science fiction
6. To look into the relationship between Henry and his family
7. To understand the plot structure
8. To compare and contrast Henry before and after his attack of

"Chocolate Fever"

9. To grasp the author's use of irony
10. To visualize the story's action

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Robert Kimmel Smith's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

Humor is parts of a story that are funny. Humor can be created through sarcasm, word play, irony, and exaggeration. Smith uses irony and word play to make *Chocolate Fever* amusing and fun to read. For example, on page 15, Smith writes: "Henry's sister was very, very old. Almost fourteen." On page 80, one of the robbers remarks: "We go after furs, and we get candy bars. We get to our hideout, and we're invaded by dogs. It's getting so a guy can't make a dishonest living anymore." The play on "honest" and "dishonest" creates humor.

Suspense is the feeling of tension or anticipation an author creates in a work. Authors create suspense by unexpected plot twists. This keeps readers interested in the story and makes them want to read on to find out what will happen. Smith creates suspense in *Chocolate Fever* directly and indirectly. For example, on page 21, Henry says to Michael: "I have the feeling something's going to happen, and I don't know what." This direct statement helps create a tense mood. Later in the novel, the exciting twists and turns also create suspense. Will the street thugs attack Henry? Will Henry and Mac escape from the hijackers? Will there be a cure for Henry's *Chocolate Fever*? These plot twists, and others like them, make *Chocolate Fever* compelling reading.

Figurative Language uses words in fresh, new ways to appeal to the imagination. Figures of speech include *similes*, *metaphors*, *extended metaphors*, *hyperbole*, and *personification*. In *Chocolate Fever*, Smith uses many similes and metaphors to create a poetic and vivid style. Some of these include "Do I have to carry on and behave like a nut?" and "Two minutes ago that boy's face was as clear as day."

SMITH'S USE OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Science fiction and fantasy is a literary technique that tells about make-believe events that include science or technology. Often, science fiction is set in the future, on distant planets, or among alien races. However, science fiction stories can also take place in the present, in every-day settings. *Chocolate Fever* skillfully intermixes elements of fantasy with reality in an everyday setting.

For example, many children are raised in permissive households where they are allowed to eat unbalanced diets. This is reality. However, no child has ever suffered from an attack of "Chocolate Fever" brought on by eating too much chocolate. This is fantasy. Further, this make-believe illness cannot be cured by "vanilla pills." By combining reality and fantasy, Smith makes his point: "Although life is grand and pleasure is everywhere, we can't have everything we want every time we want it."

CROSS CURRICULAR SOURCES

Fiction

David A. Adler, *Cam Jansen and the Chocolate Fudge Mystery*
 Miranda Barry, *The Chocolate Bar Bust*
 Bonnie Bryant, *Chocolate Horse*
 Patrick Skene Catling, *The Chocolate Touch*
 Robert Cormier, *The Chocolate War*
 Robert Cormier, *Beyond the Chocolate War*
 Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator: The Further Adventures of Charlie Bucket and Willy Wonka, Chocolate-Maker Extraordinary*

Jason A. Gould, *The Chocolate Dinosaurs*

Carolyn M. Keene, *The Chocolate-Covered Contest*

Suzy Kline, *Mary Marony and the Chocolate Surprise*

Annette Curtis Klause, *Blood and Chocolate*

Mel Gilden, *Blubb and the Chocolate Treasure*

Parker C. Hinter, Della Rowland *The Case of the Chocolate Fingerprints*

Jeffrey Kindley, *Choco-Louie*

Suzy Kline, *Mary Marony and the Chocolate Surprise*

Frances Lin Lantz, *Spinach with Chocolate Sauce*

Nancy Simpson Levene, *Hot Chocolate Friendship (Alex Series)*

Masters, M. Masters, *The Case of the Chocolate Snatcher*

M. Masters, *The Case of the Famous Chocolate Chip Cookies and 8 Other Mysteries (Can You Solve the Mystery?)*

Elaine Moore, *Chocolate Daze*

Barbara Barbieri McGrath, *More M&M's Brand Chocolate Candies Math*

Melissa Peterson, *The Cocoa Commotion: A Carmen Sandiego Mystery*

Jerry Piasecki, *Chocolate Rules and the Starship Meatloaf*

Gertrude Chandler Warner, *The Chocolate Sundae Mystery*

Daryle Worley, *Billy and the Chocolate Chip Cookies*

Bob Wright, *The Chocolate Machine Mystery*

Play

Roald Dahl, *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Nonfiction

Nathalie Bailleux, *The Book of Chocolate (Haworth Popular Culture)*

Carole Bloom, *All About Chocolate: The Ultimate Resource to the World's Favorite Food*

Janet Bode, *Food Fight: A Guide to Eating Disorders for Preteens and Their Parents*

Sandra Boynton, *Chocolate: The Consuming Passion*

Betty Burford, *Chocolate by Hershey: A Story About Milton S. Hershey*

Bonnie Busenberg, *Vanilla, Chocolate, Strawberry: The Story Your Favorite Flavors*

Chantal Coady, *Chocolate*

Jacqueline Dineen, *Chocolate*

Armand Eisen, *All Things Chocolate (Little Gift Books)*

Adrian Forsyth, *How Monkeys Make Chocolate: Foods and Medicines from the Rainforests*

Nelson Foster, *Chilies to Chocolate: Food the Americas Gave the World*

Linda K. Fuller, *Chocolate Fads, Folklore, & Fantasies: 1,000+ Chunks of Chocolate Information*

Gregg R. Gillespie, *1001 Chocolate Treats*

Barbara Grunes, *Chocolate Classics*

Joanne Harris, *Chocolate*

Shelly Johnson, *Chocolate*

Claire Llewellyn, *Chocolate*

Jean Pare, *Chocolate*

Karl Petzke, *Chocolate: A Sweet Indulgence*

Charnan Simon, *Milton Hershey: Chocolate King, Town Builder*

Sherrie Weaver, *Chocoholic Reasonettes: Little Excuses to Eat*

Chocolate

Samuel G. Woods, Gale Zucker, *Chocolate: From Start to Finish*

Larry Zisman, *The 47 Best Chocolate Chip Cookies in the World*

Larry Zisman, *57 More of the Best Chocolate Chip Cookies in the World: The Recipes That Won the Second National Chocolate Chip Cookies Contest*

Internet

"Chocolate Lovers' Page," <www.chocolate.scream.org>

"Cloister's Chocolate Review Page," <www.hhhh.org/cloister/chocolate>

"International Festival of Chocolate," <www.chocfest.com>

"Simply Chocolate," <www.simplychocolate.co.uk>

Videos/Films

Chocolate Fever (Video Storybreak)

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Robert Kimmel Smith's *Chocolate Fever* should include these aspects:

Themes

- bravery
- confusion
- family love
- fear
- food
- friendship
- humor
- mystery
- self-indulgence
- prejudice

Motifs

- being brave in terrifying situations
- chocolate as an indulgence
- family love and support
- fear of outsiders
- prejudice against minorities
- random acts of kindness
- solving mysteries
- staying close to your family
- using common sense
- why we must cooperate and help others

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. And Henry was midway through his usual breakfast, too. Chocolate cake, a bowl of cocoa-crispy cereal and milk ...washed down by a big glass of chocolate milk and five or six chocolate cookies. ..And on Sunday mornings he usually had chocolate ice cream. (Chap. 1, pp. 15-16) (*Everything Henry eats has chocolate in it. The author establishes this at the very beginning of the novel so readers understand that Henry's body is totally saturated with chocolate—filled to overflowing, as we will see.*)
2. There were little brown freckles all over his skin. Now this would not have been such a startling discovery except for one thing—those little brown freckles were not there when he woke up this morning! (Chap. 2, p. 22)

(These tiny, innocuous freckles are the first sign of the dreaded "Chocolate Fever," the make-believe illness that afflicts Henry. Henry has consumed so much chocolate that it has nowhere to go. As a result, it comes out in spots all over his body.)

3. He could feel them popping out on his arms and face, and could feel them growing under his shirt. (Chap. 4, p. 33)
(In less time than it takes to tell it, Henry is covered with little brown bumps from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. This is "Chocolate Fever," a completely new ailment that no one has ever seen before.)
4. "I smell candy," he said. "Someone's eating a candy bar." (Chap. 5, p. 39)
(Henry has been taken to the hospital. Even though he does not yet realize it, he is exuding a rich chocolate smell as well as breaking out in chocolate bumps.)
5. "Exactly," said Dr. Fargo. "The boy, it seems, is nothing more than a walking candy bar!" (Chap. 5, p. 40)
(Although Dr. Fargo seems bumbling and preoccupied, he has made the correct diagnosis: Henry is indeed so saturated with chocolate that his entire body is chocolate.)
6. "My name is my own business," he said. "It's no concern of yours." (Chap. 7, p. 51)
(Henry bravely stands up against the street thugs, refusing to divulge his name. This is enormously courageous, since he is one against many.)
7. "Uh-huh," Mac said. "When you're black, and most of the people are white, that's bound to happen." (Chap. 8, p. 62)
(This poignant passage in an otherwise light and amusing book adds an important thematic element: the damaging effects of prejudice. Mac has experienced discrimination based on his race; Henry has experienced discrimination based on his medical condition. Both are painful and grossly unfair situations.)
8. "Reach for the sky! Don't make a move!" (Chap. 9, p. 70)
(Just as Henry is about to call home and inform his parents as to his whereabouts, he and Mac are attacked by hijackers. This passage illustrates the very real dangers that many people on the road face. It also highlights the importance of safety.)
9. "Although life is grand, and pleasure is everywhere, we can't have everything we want every time we want it!" (Chap. 11, p. 84)
(Sugar Cane teaches Henry a hard lesson, but an important one. From this lesson we can infer the book's theme: the importance of moderation in all things.)
10. "Vanilla pills, Henry Green." (Chap. 11, p. 85)
(In a brilliant comic turn, Henry's Chocolate Fever is cured with the supposedly opposite flavor—vanilla. Sugar Cane knows this because he, too, was afflicted with Chocolate Fever.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. What "disease" is Henry suffering from? What is its cause?
(Henry is suffering from an imaginary disease called

"Chocolate Fever." Its symptoms include a thick brown spotted rash and a marked chocolate smell. It is caused by overindulgence in chocolate.)

2. Why does Henry run away from the hospital?
(Henry is tired and wants to be left alone. He wants to go home; he is sick of being poked, prodded, and examined. He is also very frightened about the treatment he may receive. Since his disease is new, his treatment will be experimental. As a result of his exhaustion and fear, Henry flees the hospital.)
3. What are the robbers expecting to steal? What do they find is in the truck?
(The robbers are expecting to steal a shipment of very valuable furs. To their astonishment, they discover that Mac is hauling chocolate bars. While chocolate bars are certainly worth their weight in gold to someone with a chocolate craving, they do not carry the same value as furs on the open market.)
4. What lesson does Henry learn from "Sugar" Cane?
(Henry learns that unrestrained self-indulgence is both physically and psychologically harmful. He learns that he must temper his appetites if he is to mature into a balanced adult.)
5. How is Henry's disease cured?
(Henry takes vanilla pills, the flavor thought opposite to chocolate, to rid his body of the excess chocolate.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why do Henry's parents let him eat such an unbalanced diet?
(Henry's parents are kind but over-indulgent. They may think they are helping him by letting him have his own way, but as the story reveals, they are really harming him by not teaching him the importance of a balanced diet and setting limits.)
7. What parts of this story are realistic? What parts are fantasy?
(It is realistic that a sick child would be taken care of by his teacher, the school nurse, and a doctor. It is also realistic that someone who looks different would be attacked by street thugs, that a frightened child would flee from a hospital, and that he would hitchhike with a trucker. It is also realistic that the truck would be hijacked. It is unrealistic that Henry would eat so much chocolate that he would break out in chocolate spots and exude a chocolate smell. It is unrealistic that dogs would smell all the chocolate on Henry's body and rescue Henry and Mac from the hijackers.)
8. Do you think Henry will eat too much cinnamon? Why or why not?
(If Henry has not learned his lesson from his experiences and Sugar Cane's message, it is likely that he would eat too much cinnamon because he takes his appetite to extremes. If he has learned his lesson, he will exercise restraint.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. Which parts of this novel are funniest? Why?
(Students might find the rescue very funny, as every dog in the neighborhood is attracted to Henry because of his sweet chocolate smell.)
10. What can readers learn from Henry's experiences?

(Readers can learn to eat their favorite foods in moderation and not to indulge in any one passion too strongly.)

Questions 11-13 (Creative Level)

11. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss some ways that you might have coped with Henry's situation had you been in his place.
12. Explain what motivated Henry to eat so much chocolate. If you were his parents, how would you have coped with this situation?

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art and Music

1. Draw at least three new pictures for the novel. Explain where they fit in the story.
2. Design a new cover for *Chocolate Fever*.
3. Create a poster or web site warning children about the danger of hitchhiking.
4. Invent a new chocolate bar. Then design an ad campaign for your candy creation.
5. Find background music for the scene at the hijackers' cabin. Read the scene to the class as you play the music.

History and Social Studies

1. Make a children's book showing the history of chocolate.
2. Explain what white chocolate is and how it differs from milk and bittersweet chocolate.
3. Trace the symptoms and treatments for measles and chicken pox, two other illnesses Henry is suspected of having.
4. Henry calls his brother *Marco Polo*. Write a report identifying Marco Polo and telling why he was important.
5. Find out how sugar is made from beets and sugar cane. Share your research with the class.
6. Make a map showing the route Henry took from the hospital to Mac's truck, the hijacker's hideout, and back home again.

Language Arts

1. The novel opens with a paragraph that is designed to grab the reader's interest. Write a new "teaser" paragraph to open the book.
2. Imagine that you had written a novel. Write a dedication, thanking someone who has helped you in an important way.
3. Write a funny poem about your favorite food.
4. List as many chocolate foods as you can. Compare your list to a friend and see how many different chocolate foods you each have listed.
5. The novel uses the "portmanteau" word *chortle*, a combination of *chuckle* and *snort*. Explain what two words combined to create the "portmanteau" word *smog*.
6. Working with some classmates, make a newspaper telling what happened to Henry. Include advertisements, pictures, and comics as well.
7. Write your top three rules for being a good child and your top three rules for being a good parent.

Mathematics

1. Henry's growth is not affected by all the chocolate he eats. Make a growth chart for a boy or girl, tracing the average growth from infancy to grade 6.
2. Henry is having a math lesson when his chocolate spots erupt. Explain what Mrs. Kimmelfarber was teaching: how

to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions.

Science and Health

1. Henry is rescued by dogs who lick all the chocolate from his bodies. Can dogs eat chocolate? Find the answer to this question and post it on the class web page or bulletin board.
2. Find a recipe for your favorite chocolate dish. Share the recipe with the class. If possible, make the dish and share it as well.
3. Henry eats a very unbalanced diet. Make the Department of Health's food pyramid, showing what foods a person your age needs to eat to be healthy.
4. Henry knows the sun is bad for your skin. Make a poster showing how to protect your skin if you have to be in the sun for long periods of time.
5. Nurse Farthing hates germs. Give a speech defining germs and telling how they harm us.
6. The street thugs think Henry has warts. Find out what warts are, including their cause and cure.
7. Write Dr. Fargo's medical report on Henry's condition.

Speech

1. Recast the novel as a radio play. Perform the play for the class.
2. Imagine that Henry did call his parents. Working with a partner, create the phone conversation they had.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Henry loves chocolate. Select a food you love and explain why it tastes so good.
2. "Writing juveniles has been very rewarding," Smith said in a recent interview. "Kids are a responsive audience. I'll continue to be funny for them." Explain what parts of *Chocolate Fever* you found funniest and why.
3. Write a TV news report on Henry's unusual medical condition.
4. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main themes.
5. Lead a debate about setting limits on kids' behavior. Which rules are important to set and why?

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of lessons that you have learned the hard way as well as the easy way.
2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate how Henry is brave.
3. Compose a scene in which Henry gets Cinnamon Fever.
4. Make a character list and describe each character.

VOCABULARY TEST

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. lean | a. casual friend |
| _____ 2. verge | b. eyeglasses |
| _____ 3. stunt | c. to clean; an object that cleans |
| _____ 4. chortled | d. grumbled |
| _____ 5. phenomenon | e. slender |
| _____ 6. infirmary | f. moody and silent |
| _____ 7. spectacles | g. event, occurrence |
| _____ 8. bounding | h. dilemma, problem |
| _____ 9. magnifying | i. ran very fast |
| _____ 10. swab | j. edge |
| _____ 11. bolted | k. nurse's office |
| _____ 12. grasp | l. crooked |
| _____ 13. predicament | m. laughed |
| _____ 14. nauseating | n. faking |
| _____ 15. bluffing | o. one of a kind |
| _____ 16. rumbled | p. suppress |
| _____ 17. unique | q. make larger |
| _____ 18. lopsided | r. to hold |
| _____ 19. acquaintance | s. feeling sick |
| _____ 20. glumly | t. walking with a bounce in your step |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| A. Henry Green | F. Mac | K. Mark Green |
| B. Elizabeth Green | G. Louie | L. Squinty |
| C. Michael Burke | H. Sugar Cane | M. Dr. Harris |
| D. Molly Farthing | I. Mrs. Kimmelfarber | N. Enid Green |
| E. Dr. Fargo | J. Mr. Pangalos | O. Marco Polo |

- _____ 1. truck driver who shares his dinner with Henry
- _____ 2. doctor who identifies Henry's condition as "Chocolate Fever"
- _____ 3. man who owns all the candy bars on the truck
- _____ 4. Henry's teacher
- _____ 5. boy who loves chocolate in any form
- _____ 6. Henry's older sister
- _____ 7. school nurse who takes good care of Henry
- _____ 8. teacher in the next classroom
- _____ 9. one of the hijackers
- _____ 10. Henry's best friend

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Henry is allowed to eat as much chocolate as he wants after he has eaten all his regular food.
- _____ 2. Henry breaks out in little red spots after his sister gets the chicken pox.
- _____ 3. When Henry is around, everyone smells chocolate.
- _____ 4. Henry runs away from the hospital because he is frightened, tired, and lonely.
- _____ 5. Henry convinces the boys in the school yard not to beat him up by telling them that anyone who touches him will catch his disease and die a horrible death.
- _____ 6. Mac tells Henry that he looks terrible and ugly and should not return home.
- _____ 7. The hijackers are thrilled to discover that the truck is filled with expensive fur coats.
- _____ 8. The hijackers take Henry and Mac to their hideout, a cabin in the woods.
- _____ 9. Henry and Mac get away from the hijackers and hide in a cave.
- _____ 10. Henry learns an important life lesson from Mr. Alfred Cane.

Part III: Motivation (30 points)

Complete each line below with a reason or explanation.

1. Henry eats a lot of chocolate because
2. Henry gets Chocolate Fever because
3. The kids in the schoolyard are cruel to Henry because
4. Mac picks Henry up because
5. Henry wants to call home because
6. The hijackers get very angry because
7. Mac tells Henry to obey the hijackers because
8. The dogs rescue Mac & Henry because
9. Sugar Cane knows how to cure Henry because
10. At the end of the book, Henry stops eating so much chocolate because

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. How does Henry react to his medical condition?
2. Which characters do you find most admirable? Why?
3. Describe how Mac takes care of Henry.
4. Summarize three lessons you learned from the novel.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

1. Henry and his family live in (an apartment in the city, a big house in the country).
2. When Henry meets Michael in the school yard, Henry says that he feels (very happy, a little strange)
3. Mrs. Kimmelfarber is astonished to see that Henry (has walked out of the classroom, is covered in brown spots)
4. The Nurse (gets very excited, stays as cool as a cucumber) when she sees Henry.
5. Dr. Fargo says that Henry has (Chocolate Fever, chicken pox and the measles).
6. After running away from the hospital, Henry first hides in an empty (sailboat, garage).
7. Mac is an (Asian, African-American) man.
8. Mac shares his (dinner, books) with Henry.
9. Mac starts to laugh at the hijackers when he realizes that they (think they are stealing furs; are also suffering from Chocolate Fever).
10. The cure for Chocolate Fever is (vanilla pills, cinnamon)

Part II: Quotation Matching (30 points)

Match the following quotations with names of characters from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left. You will use some names more than once and some not at all.

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Henry Green | F. Mac | K. Mark Green |
| B. Elizabeth Green | G. Louie and Lefty | L. the school yard bully |
| C. Michael Burke | H. Sugar Cane | M. Dr. Harris |
| D. Molly Farthing | I. Mrs. Kimmelfarber | N. Mrs. Green |
| E. Dr. Fargo | J. Mr. Pangalos | O. Marco Polo |

- ___ 1. "Better hurry, kids. It's almost eight thirty."
- ___ 2. "I feel funny today. I have the feeling something's going to happen, and I don't know what."
- ___ 3. "And if I take six and a half and subtract one and a quarter, what will I have left?"
- ___ 4. "The boy, it seems, is nothing more than a walking candy bar!"
- ___ 5. "When you're black, and most of the other people are white, that's bound to happen."
- ___ 6. "Reach for the sky! Don't make a move! Hands up! We've got you covered!"
- ___ 7. "Let me hit him, Frankie"
- ___ 8. "First thing we do is drive down this road till we get to a telephone. Then we call your folks so they can stop worrying."
- ___ 9. "Although life is grand, and pleasure is everywhere, we can't have everything we want every time we want it. It's a hard lesson, but it comes in time."
- ___ 10. "You know what, Mom? Just this once I think I'll skip it. Plain old maple syrup will do."

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Explain why each is important in the story.

1. chocolate
2. fur coats
3. dogs
4. Sugar Cane
5. vanilla

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe Chocolate Fever, its cause and cure.
2. Summarize Henry's actions after he runs away from the hospital.
3. Explain how Henry changes as he experiences the events described in the novel.
4. Trace the novel's plot. Include the rising action, climax, and resolution.

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. e | 6. k | 11. i | 16. d |
| 2. j | 7. b | 12. r | 17. o |
| 3. p | 8. t | 13. h | 18. l |
| 4. m. | 9. q | 14. s | 19. a |
| 5. g | 10. c | 15. n | 20. f |

ANSWER KEY

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. B |
| 2. E | 7. D |
| 3. H | 8. J |
| 4. I | 9. G |
| 5. A | 10. C |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. T |

Part III: Motivation (30 points)

1. it is his favorite food; he loves it.
2. his body is overloaded with chocolate
3. they fear someone who looks different; they are themselves frightened
4. Mac is afraid that otherwise some harm will come to Henry
5. He knows that his parents are worried sick over his disappearance
6. the truck is filled with chocolate bars, not the fur coats they were expecting to find
7. Mac knows that is the best way to ensure Henry's safety
8. Henry makes the cabin smell like a chocolate bar
9. he had also suffered from Chocolate Fever
10. he has learned his lesson

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

1. an apartment in the city
2. a little strange
3. is covered in brown spots
4. stays as cool as a cucumber
5. Chocolate Fever
6. garage
7. African-American
8. dinner
9. think they are stealing furs
10. vanilla pills

Part II: Quotation Matching (30 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. N | 6. G |
| 2. A | 7. L |
| 3. I | 8. F |
| 4. E | 9. H |
| 5. F | 10. A |

Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. Henry loves chocolate; when he eats too much of it, he gets "Chocolate Fever." Perceptive readers may realize that chocolate becomes a symbol for excess.
2. The hijackers believe the truck holds fur coats; instead, Mac is transporting candy bars.
3. The dogs rescue Mac and Henry from the hijackers, attracted by Henry's smell of chocolate.
4. Sugar Cane, the candy maker, teaches Henry a very important lesson about life.
5. Vanilla is the cure for Chocolate Fever.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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