



## The Chocolate Room



‘An important room, this!’ cried Mr Wonka, taking a bunch of keys from his pocket and slipping one into the keyhole of the door. ‘*This* is the nerve centre of the whole factory, the heart of the whole business! And *so beautiful!* I *insist* upon my rooms being beautiful! I can’t *abide* ugliness in factories! *In* we go, then! But *do* be careful, my dear children! Don’t lose your heads! Don’t get over-excited! Keep very calm!’

My Wonka opened the door. Five children and nine-grown-ups pushed their way in – and *oh*, what an amazing sight it was that now met their eyes!

They were looking down upon a lovely valley. There were green meadows on either side of the valley, and along the bottom of it there flowed a great brown river.

What is more, there was a tremendous waterfall halfway along the river – a steep cliff over which the water curled and rolled in a solid sheet, and then went crashing down into a boiling churning whirlpool of froth and spray.

Below the waterfall (and this was the most astonishing sight of all), a whole mass of enormous glass pipes were dangling down into the river from somewhere high up in the ceiling! They really were *enormous*, those pipes. There must have been a dozen of them at least, and they were sucking up the brownish muddy water from the river and carrying it away to goodness knows where. And because they were made of glass, you could see the liquid flowing and bubbling along inside them, and above the noise of the waterfall, you could hear the never-ending suck-suck-sucking sound of the pipes as they did their work.

Graceful trees and bushes were growing along the riverbanks – weeping willows and alders and tall clumps of rhododendrons with their pink and red and mauve blossoms. In the meadows there were thousands of buttercups.

‘*There!*’ cried Mr Wonka, dancing up and down and pointing his gold-topped cane at the great brown river. ‘It’s *all* chocolate! Every drop of that river is hot melted chocolate of the finest quality. The *very* finest quality. There’s enough chocolate in there to fill *every* bathtub in the *entire* country! *And* all the swimming pools as well! Isn’t it *terrific*? And just look at my pipes! They suck up the chocolate and carry it away to all the other rooms in the factory where it is needed! Thousands of gallons an hour, my dear children! Thousands and thousands of gallons!’

The children and their parents were too flabbergasted to speak. They were staggered. They were dumbfounded. They were bewildered and dazzled. They were completely bowled over by the hugeness of the whole thing. They simply stood and stared.

‘The waterfall is *most* important!’ Mr Wonka went on. ‘It mixes the chocolate! It churns it up! It pounds it and beats it! It makes it light and frothy! No other factory in the world mixes its chocolate by waterfall! But it’s the *only* way to do it properly! The *only* way! And do you like my trees?’ he cried, pointing with his stick. ‘And my lovely bushes? Don’t you think they look pretty? I told you I hated ugliness! And of course they are *all* eatable! All made of something different and delicious! And do you like my meadows? Do you like my grass and my buttercups? The grass you are standing on, my dear little ones, is made of a new kind of soft, minty sugar that I’ve just invented! I call it swudge! Try a blade! Please do!’

*Answer the following questions about the text in your English homework books.*

1. What did the children and adults see halfway along the river?
2. How many bathtubs could be filled by the chocolate in the chocolate river, according to Willy Wonka?
3. Why is the waterfall the most important thing?
4. Find a quote from the text which tells you how the visitors to the chocolate room were feeling.
5. What do you notice about the way Mr Wonka speaks?
6. Why do you think the author decided that Mr Wonka should talk in this way?
7. Mr Wonka says, "I insist upon my rooms being beautiful, I can't abide ugliness in factories." Why is this quite an unusual thing for a factory-owner to say?
8. Can you find 2 places in the text where the author gives you an idea of how large this room is?
9. Somewhere in this text, Roald Dahl has used a fronted adverbial. What is it?
10. What does Willy Wonka think of his chocolate room? How do you know?

