



NEW MEXICO YOUNG ACTORS

present

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Jr.

Words and Music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

Adapted for the stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy A. McDonald

Based on the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl

TEACHER STUDY GUIDE

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to New Mexico Young Actors' production of *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Jr.* We are offering this study guide to help you prepare your classes for our upcoming production and your experience at the theater. Included in this guide are a **synopsis** of the musical, a **list of characters**, a **vocabulary list** and **curriculum ideas**, and some **audience protocol** reminders.

We always enjoy hearing from you and your students and look forward to receiving any pictures, stories, or comments about the production after your field trip. Thank you for your support of New Mexico Young Actors. We look forward to seeing you at the KiMo Theatre!

SYNOPSIS

Willy Wonka JR. opens in Wonka's magical chocolate factory, a mysterious place with strange creatures known as Oompa-Loompas ("Pure Imagination"). With the help of the Oompa-Loompas, Wonka, self-described "greatest candy maker of all time," explains that he faces retirement soon, and he is concerned about finding a replacement ("Golden Age Of Chocolate").

Wonka introduces the audience to Charlie Bucket, a poor boy sharing a cramped home with his parents and both sets of grandparents. Charlie steps outside, and the Candy Man kindly slips him a lollipop ("The Candy Man"). Charlie returns home with a newspaper, and the Bucket family learns that the reclusive Wonka has hidden five Golden Tickets in chocolate bars all over the world. The lucky winners will get to visit his factory and win a lifetime supply of chocolate. The Buckets wistfully imagine winning a Golden Ticket.

Augustus Gloop finds the first ticket. Augustus and his mother, Mrs. Gloop discuss the enormous amount of food Augustus consumes each day with a reporter ("I Eat More"). The second winner is Veruca Salt, the spoiled daughter of a rich factory owner. Charlie and his father are disheartened, and Mr. Bucket confesses that he has lost his job. They encourage each other to "think positive" before heading home ("Think Positive").

The Buckets surprise Charlie with a candy bar for his birthday. There is no Golden Ticket inside, and the family hears on the radio that Violet Beauregarde, a rude girl obsessed with chewing gum, has found the third Golden Ticket. Moments later, Mike Teavee, a boy who cares only about electronics, finds the fourth Golden Ticket ("I See It All On TV"). Discouraged, the Buckets go to bed, but Grandpa Joe has one last birthday surprise for Charlie: another Wonka candy bar! They tear the wrapper... but no Golden Ticket is inside ("Cheer Up, Charlie").

Two weeks later, Charlie finds a coin while helping the Candy Man and uses it to buy a Wonka candy bar ("Think Positive – Reprise"). He finds the last Golden Ticket and rushes home to show his family. Grandpa Joe is chosen to accompany Charlie to the factory ("I've Got A Golden Ticket"). Before they know it, Charlie and Grandpa Joe are in front of the Willy Wonka Chocolate

Factory, anxiously waiting to enter the mysterious place. Wonka greets them ("At the Gates"). They begin their tour of the factory ("In This Room Here; Factory Reveal Sequence").

In the Chocolate Smelting Room, temptation proves too much for Augustus, and he is frozen in chocolate ("Oompa-Loompa 1"). The tour continues through a darker, scarier part of the factory ("There's No Knowing"). In the Inventing Room, Wonka shows the group an Everlasting Gobstopper that tastes like an entire gourmet meal. Violet can't resist ("Chew It"), but the candy turns her into a giant blueberry ("Oompa-Loompa 2").

In the Fizzy Lifting Drink Room, Wonka tells them not to taste the bubbles as they will make a person float on air. When the tour continues, Grandpa Joe and Charlie are accidentally left behind. They taste a bottle of the Fizzy Lifting Drink and are suddenly floating in the air, unable to get down ("Flying"). Panicked as they float toward a fan, Charlie finds a solution: burping ("Burping Song").

Charlie and Grandpa Joe catch up to the group in the Nut Room, where squirrels sort good nuts from bad nuts. Veruca stands over a chute that declares her a "bad nut," ("I Want It Now!"), and down she goes ("Oompa-Loompa 3"). Charlie and Mike enter the Choco-Vision Room, where Wonka tests sending candy directly through television. Mike ignores Wonka's warnings and flips a switch, jumping directly in front of a camera. Mike shrinks down to a miniature version of himself, and Wonka sends him to the taffy-pulling machine to be stretched ("Oompa-Loompa 4").

Wonka bids Charlie and Grandpa Joe goodbye, promising Charlie his lifetime supply of chocolate. Charlie confesses that he broke the rules by tasting the Fizzy Lifting Drink, so he does not deserve the chocolate. With this confession, Charlie has proved his character to Wonka, who explains that the true prize is not a lifetime supply of chocolate but the ownership of Wonka's factory. Wonka offers Charlie the chance to be his heir, and Charlie accepts ("Finale").

CAST OF CHARACTERS

WILLY WONKA – the greatest candymaker of all time

OOMPA LOOMPAS – the workers in the Wonka chocolate factory

CHARLIE BUCKET – the hero of our story, the winner of the fifth Golden Ticket

MR. AND MRS. BUCKET – Charlie's hard-working parents

GRANDPA JOE – Charlie's favorite grandparent, who accompanies him on the factory tour

GRANDMA JOSEPHINA, GRANDMA GEORGINA, & GRANDPA GEORGE – Charlie's bedridden grandparents

THE CANDY MAN – sells all the kids their favorite Wonka candies

JAMES & MATILDA – Charlie’s school friends

AUGUSTUS GLOOP – winner of the first Golden Ticket; a spoiled boy with a big appetite for candy

MRS. GLOOP – Augustus’ mother

VERUCA SALT – winner of the second Golden Ticket; rich and bratty girl who gets everything she wants

MR. SALT – Veruca’s father

VIOLET BEAUREGARDE – winner of the third Golden Ticket; she is obsessed with gum

MRS. BEAUREGARDE – Violet’s mother

MIKE TEAVEE – winner of the fourth Golden Ticket; a kid with a major screen addiction

MRS. TEAVEE – Mike’s mother

PHINEOUS TROUT – the TV reporter who interviews all of the winners

THEATRICAL TERMS TO KNOW

Actor

Acts/Scenes

Balcony

Box Office

Curtain Call

Costumes

Director

Lobby

Musical Theater

Orchestra

Pit

Overture

Play

Playwright

Producer

Program

Props

Scenery/Set

Stage

Stagehand

Usher

CONTENT VOCABULARY AND TERMS

Bunion

Catastrophe

Distinguished

Malign

Pristine

Refugee

Shilly shallying

Smelting pot

Twits

Vertigo

Waikiki

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION (PRE-PERFORMANCE)

1. How many of you have experienced a live dramatic performance? What did you see?
2. What are some of the differences between seeing a live performance and watching television or going to a movie?

- Theater features live actors on-stage. They have spent many weeks rehearsing for the performance.

- The audience is a very important part of the performance. Appreciation and enthusiasm for the performers is shown by close attention and participation and applause at the proper times. The success of the play often depends on the audience.

- The atmosphere of a live performance is entirely different from your home, where the television is always available.

- It is easy to identify with live actors. You can see how they use their bodies and voices to convey different emotions.

- Actors wear costumes and make-up to help create the impression of the characters they play.

- There is much more to most live performances than actors. Special sets, effects, lighting, music, costumes, and of course, the audience add to the total experience.

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Discuss the role of the audience and proper theater etiquette.

Arrive on time so that you do not miss anything and so that you will not disturb the rest of the audience. Lights may go out before the performance begins and seating is very difficult after that time.

The KiMo Theatre is a historic building. Please respect and preserve the beauty of the KiMo by not bringing food and beverages (including gum and candy) into the theater. These items are permitted in the lobby only.

It is easier for you (and the rest of the audience) to see and hear the performance if you stay in your seat and listen very carefully. Try your best to remain in your seat once the performance has begun.

There is no intermission during the performance of *Willy Wonka*, which is one hour and fifteen minutes in length.

Although you may wish to say something to the actors, you need to hold your thoughts, as you will disturb their concentration. Sing or participate if and only if you are invited to do so. Your participation is often very important.

Listen to how the music sets the mood and affects your own feelings. Show the cast and crew your appreciation for their hard work with applause. Do this when you like a song, dance, or joke.

Be sure to turn off all electronic devices and cell phones. Do not text during the performance. This is very inconsiderate to the performers and distracting to your fellow audience members.

CLASSROOM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (PRE- or POST-PERFORMANCE)

- Read aloud or listen to an audio version of the original novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. How does the musical differ from the story in prose? What are similarities?
- Create a “talk show” as a class. Have students act as journalists interviewing characters from the story. Ask questions you have always wanted to know about Charlie Bucket, Grandpa Joe, Willy Wonka, or the other Golden Ticket winners
- Create a class mural of the musical. Include scenes from the story such as the Bucket Shack or the inside of the factory.
- Draw a picture of a favorite scene or character.
- Re-create the chocolate factory using clay forms in a box or using cardboard. Label the locations that are featured in the children’s tour of the factory.
- Draw an advertisement or program cover for the musical.
- Ask the students to identify musical instruments that they heard in the musical. Discuss other instruments that could have been added for greater effect.
- Can you identify any recurring musical themes or motives in the music?
- How did the music express the action or emotion of the story (tempo, volume, range of notes, etc.)?
- Discuss how dance adds to the storytelling of a musical.
- Design your own unique chocolate bar: what is it made of? What makes it special?
- Schedule a movie day and show one of the classic *Willy Wonka* films. Compare and contrast the films and the musical.

OTHER RESOURCES

Books

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator by Roald Dahl

Internet

A website devoted to all things Roald Dahl:

<https://www.roalddahl.com/>

A website created by and for fans of Roald Dahl:

<https://www.roalddahlfans.com/>

The Roald Dahl Museum is located in England, but their site is pretty cool to explore:

<https://www.roalddahlmuseum.org/>