

The Candymakers Study Guide

The Candymakers by Wendy Mass

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Plot Summary

“The Candymakers” is a young adult mystery novel by Wendy Mass which follows the efforts of Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip at a candy factory to create the perfect candy and win a contest, and to avert the theft of a secret ingredient. As the novel opens, Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip have all been selected as winners of an essay contest in Region III of the United States to participate in the Confectionary Association’s annual new candy contest. Each of the kids will be given a crash-course in candymaking at Life is Sweet Candy Factory, from which they will create their own new candy. The winner will not only receive \$1,000, but their candy will be put into mass production and distribution.

Logan himself is the child of the owners of the Life is Sweet Candy Company, though he has not inherited the natural candymaking talents of his parents and grandparents. Logan’s selection for the contest means he has the chance to prove he is as good as his father and grandfather. Miles’s entry into the contest has to do with seeing a young girl drown the year before, plunging him into reading and learning, especially about the afterlife. His entry into the contest is in honor of that girl. Daisy is a spy, part of a family of spies that hire themselves out to various customers and groups. Daisy has been tasked with stealing the secret ingredient from Life is Sweet for the client Second Enterprises. Philip, a rich and wealthy kid, has entered the contest to seek revenge against Logan for a childhood accident where Logan dropped Philip’s toy truck into a vat of chocolate, leading to Philip being banned from the factory.

Logan, Miles, and Daisy immediately get along well. Philip remains distant, plotting revenge. All three kids are stunned, however, by the fact that Logan’s face and arms are so heavily scarred, but no one asks about them. As time passes, Daisy begins to question the morality of her current job. She sees how happy and passionate the Life is Sweet employees are about making candy, and wonders why Second Enterprises would want to take that away. She plans to add soap to the secret ingredient so that when backup agents steal the ingredient, it will backfire on them.

Miles comes to discover that Daisy is the girl he thought had drowned the year before – but she was only carrying on with physical training by staying underwater so long. Miles quickly becomes especially good friends with Logan. While the two are camping out in the factory at night, they discover Daisy and Philip with the secret ingredient. Philip confesses that he had originally been seeking revenge, but that he came to discover he was never banned from the factory. His father had made it up as part of plot to ruin Life is Sweet’s finances in order to buy out the company and make a windfall profit. Philip has never been very close with his father. Philip explains his goal is to prevent his father from taking over Life is Sweet which is why he himself was trying to steal the ingredient, to keep it safe. He also reveals a bet with his father: If Philip can win the contest, his father will not try to take over the company.

Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip all agree to work together on one candy in order to win the contest. They pursue Philip’s idea of a candy harmonica that actually plays –the



Harmonicandy. Logan comes to realize that he, like the others, has entered the contest for the wrong reason. He didn't enter the contest out of love of his art form, but the desire to prove himself. He is now personally invested in making a wonderful candy out of passion – and to save the company. At the convention, the Harmonicandy takes first prize.

Logan's father then reveals the secret ingredient to Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip. The tin in which it is kept is empty with a mirrored bottom, showing the reflections of the four kids. The secret ingredient, it is revealed, are the people who make the candy, and the love that goes into the candy. Daisy decides to take time off from spying. Logan ultimately reveals his scars were a result of his falling into a vat of boiling chocolate to attempt to save Philip's toy truck years before. Logan and Philip then become good friends with each other, and everyone else.



Part 1: Logan

Summary

Chapter 1 – The Spring Haven Herald announces the winners of the Confectionary Association’s annual new candy contest. Thirty-two 12-year-old kids are chosen from around the country to participate. From Region III are Logan Sweet, Miles O’Leary, Daisy Carpenter, and Philip Ransford III, due to report to Life is Sweet Candy Factory two days before the competition begins. Logan and his parents live at their Life is Sweet Candy Factory. His father is the Candymaker, the man in charge. Logan is thrilled not only to be participating in the contest, but also that three other kids will be living at the factory as well. Logan’s life revolves around candy, so other kids being around will be out of the ordinary. Logan’s father reminds him to make those kids feel welcome.

Logan’s mom gives him a folded-up poem to keep in his pocket to memorize, a daily ritual. Logan’s mom is very talented at using whatever ingredients are at hand to create something to eat. Logan’s education has not only been in candy, but in regular subjects as well, taught to him by various workers at the factory. While Logan has no problem helping out around the factory, he has serious trouble actually creating candy. It worries him to no end. Logan is determined to win the contest to prove himself, just as his father and his grandfather did in their day. Logan enjoys watching Max Pinkus, confectionary scientist responsible for the Icy Mint Blob, working in the Candy Laboratory. Logan swings by the lab, says hello, then goes to meet the kids.

Chapter 2 – Logan meets the other three contestants. Daisy is pretty, and wears a yellow dress. Miles is a short boy. Philip is impatient and dressed in a suit. Miles and Daisy are very impressed with the factory. Philip says Logan doesn’t have a chance winning against him, and is surprised Logan’s father managed to win the competition with a peppermint ice pop. Logan explains that at the time, it was a big deal because most people just started getting freezers in their homes. Daisy dislikes Philip for looking down on her father for playing the violin professionally.

Max arrives to welcome them, reminding them of the rules of the contest, the \$1,000 cash prize, and the production and distribution of the winning candy. Max will conduct a tour, then lunch will be had, and then Max will begin teaching the kids the basics of candymaking. Daisy uses the bathroom while Max asks many questions of Max, such as what kinds of ingredients will be used in the lab. The tour begins with the Cocoa Room, where brothers Lenny and Steve oversee chocolate production. There, a mysterious tin is encountered, which Max explains is a trade secret. Not even Logan knows what secret ingredient is in the tin.

Chapter 3 – The tour continues in the Taffy Room, headed up by Fran. Saisy helps Fran to pull some taffy. The kids are given fresh, warm taffy to sample, but Philip refuses his, saying that he doesn’t like candy, and that it rots teeth. Logan and the others are stunned. Daisy demands to know why Philip would enter a candy contest if he hates



candy. Philip explains that a contest is a contest, and that it is best not to get too close to one's subject. Logan wonders in his head if he himself is in the contest only to win, or because he actually loves candy.

The tour moves on to the Cotton Candy Room, the Neon Yellow Lightning Chews Room, and the factory library. Logan loves the library, and is glad to see Miles and Daisy are amazed with it. Miles separates from the tour to stay in the library for a little while. The others move on to the Tropical Room, where tropical trees and plants are grown and tended to by Avery for the ingredients they produce. Avery welcomes the group and encourages them to make good candy. Logan shows Miles, Daisy, and Philip a sapodilla tree, his favorite.

Word comes from Randall in quality control that the nougat tastes off. Logan reminds Max that Paulo in beekeeping said their queen bee was near death, so the bees lack direction, meaning the honey used for the nougat tastes differently. Daisy is impressed. In the Bee Room, it is clear the bees are not their normal selves, sadly flying around. With Paulo leading, the group says a prayer for the queen bee who has died. Miles then screams.

Chapter 4 – Miles reveals he tried to look at a butterfly but fell over. No one else sees a butterfly. A new queen has risen. Logan, who has a way with the bees, tells them to do their work and take comfort in the new queen. With a sample of the new honey, Logan heads to Quality Control, agreeing to meet the group in the cafeteria for lunch. In the cafeteria, Logan says hello to Henry from Marshmallows. Henry is the oldest employee, having been there since Logan's grandfather opened the factory. With Logan's grandfather in Heaven, Logan treasures his friendship with one of his grandfather's old friends.

During lunch, Logan learns that Miles is allergic to everything from rowboats to the color pink, but loves to learn, such as about the afterlife. While the group enjoys lunch outdoors and looks at clouds, Philip scribbles in a notebook. While outside, Logan performs his daily study of a caterpillar preparing to turn into a butterfly. The group then heads to the labs to get acquainted with candy production. Logan considers if he can find a way to make ChocoRockets turn from chocolate to gum and back again.

Chapter 5 – The next morning before the others arrive, Logan visits with Henry in the Marshmallow Room. Logan worries that he'll never be good enough. Henry comforts him, saying that things and people change when they are ready. These things can't always be predicted. Henry also cautions Logan not to be too hard on Philip. It makes Logan think about the paper in his pocket from his mother, which reminds the reader that everyone is fighting a battle no one knows anything about.

Logan greets Miles when Miles's tired-looking dad drops him off. They then greet Daisy when she arrives on horseback, saying her parents couldn't drive her that morning. Philip, who arrives in the lab early, is already ready to work. The group begins by panning, which gives candy a hard shell, and then moves on to chocolate coating. Philip



announces he isn't going to share his idea with anyone for worry that they will steal it. The group is stunned by his accusation.

Chapter 6 – Mr. and Mrs. Sweet arrive to greet the contestants in the lab. They are happy to meet everyone. They reveal that Henry has spoken about Philip's ambition. Logan reveals to the others that neither his parents, nor Max, know about his plans so he will have just as much chance at winning the contest as the other kids. Daisy finds this very admirable. Logan reveals his plans for Bubbletastic ChocoRockets to Daisy, Miles, Max, and Philip. They all encourage him. Max releases the kids to go about the factory at will to begin the contest. Philip wants a wall constructed around his station so no one can see what he is doing.

Logan goes to the Tropical Room to talk to Avery about changing gum to chocolate and back again. He knows he will need fresh chicle, the correct heating and cooling temperatures, powdered sugar, acacia gum, tempered chocolate, nougat, edible wax, and a handmade mold to proceed. At lunch, Logan and the others find a note from Daisy saying she went to check on the horse, but with something scratched out as well. Logan brings Miles to the family's apartment for lunch served by his mother. She invites Miles's parents to dinner at six. Logan begins to feel like a normal kid.

Chapter 7 – Back in the lab, Daisy, Logan, and Miles are stunned to see that the lab looks like the city of Spring Haven, with high walls hiding everyone's work areas. Philip is the only one concerned about privacy, however. The four contestants get to work, assisted and aided by Max as needed. Logan is able to create chocolate-flavored gum, but unable to get it to turn back again. Daisy and Miles seem to have more success. Logan invites Daisy and her family to dinner, but she says she can't come. She is picked up by her cousin Bo in an old pickup truck. Logan and Miles head to the ingredient fields next to the factory.

Logan shows Miles an abandoned, overgrown merry-go-round, which causes them to think about how they can't always see things right in front of them. Logan then discovers the butterfly he'd hoped to see hatch has already done so. At dinner, Logan and Miles's parents get along very well, and Miles decides to spend the night. They decide to camp out in the Tropical Room. Miles reveals his love of books allows him to learn new things and escape the real world. Miles separates to put his hand in a chocolate fountain while Logan sets up camp. He discovers something bright and orange in Miles's backpack, but doesn't look at it for long. When Logan goes in search of Miles, he discovers that someone is going through files with a flashlight, stealing the Candymaker's secret.

Analysis

"The Candymakers" is a young adult mystery novel by Wendy Mass which follows the efforts of Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip at a candy factory to create the perfect candy and win a contest, and to avert the theft of a secret ingredient. The novel opens with Logan and the theme of coming of age. Logan, like Daisy, Miles, and Philip, has entered the candy invention contest. But the difference between Logan and the others is that



Logan is terribly self-conscious. By where he lives and who his family members are as candymakers, Logan should be the most confident contestant, but he is not.

Logan's fears and insecurities stem from two places. First, his father and grandfather won the contest when they were his age, and Logan aspires to do the same. Second, Logan has been unable to truly grasp the art of candymaking, and by winning the contest, he will prove his worth. His insecurities and fears are a place from which to grow, or come of age.

Beyond his fears and insecurities, Logan is relatively inexperienced in life in two other interesting ways. Beyond much older friends at the factory, Logan has no friends his own age. Likewise, Logan has never attended traditional school, his education formed by work at the factory and learning in the factory's massive library. The reason for this relative inexperience in the world – no school and no young friends – is a result of heavy scarring Logan suffered from an accident as a small child. Logan's self-confidence here, too, is lacking – and is a place from which he can grow. The past here is powerful, and the past will become an important theme as the novel progresses. However, it is clear that Logan has struck up a friendship with Miles, and here, the theme of friendship emerges.

It is through Logan that the reader first learns about the secret ingredient tin. It is no accident that this tin is shown to Logan and the other kids. The tin will become the obsessive focus of two of the characters by the end of the novel, and all four will come to wonder just what the secret ingredient is. (This will be revealed at the end of the novel.) The reader should bear in mind that the appearance of the tin calls into question the motives of the other contestants – and through this, the theme of motivations emerges subtly.

As the reader follows Logan and the others on the tour, some strange things about the other contestants emerge. Most questions swirl around Philip. For example, why does Philip – who hates candy – want to be a part of a candy contest? What is Philip always scribbling down in his notebook? Why is Philip so mean? Perhaps the strangest thing of all is Miles's screaming because of a butterfly, and his unusual allergies. Each of these questions will have an answer by the end of the novel, in conjunction with the themes of the past and of motivations. Indeed, the past carries more weight than any of the contestants realize yet.

The end of the first part of the novel also brings to the fore the theme of morality. It is clear by now that Logan is a morally upright kid, always doing his best to do the right thing. This is among the reasons why it is so shocking to him that he should discover someone doing something highly immoral – stealing the secret ingredient tin. Logan has never encountered anything like this before. His reaction will not be observed by the reader until the final part of the novel.



Discussion Question 1

Logan, despite living at the candy factory and being the son of candymakers, has the least confidence of all the kids when entering the contest. Why?

Discussion Question 2

What is shown to Logan and the other contestants that brings into question their motivations for entering the contest? Why?

Discussion Question 3

What is Logan's rationale for entering the contest? Do you believe this is a good cause to enter the contest? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

chant, routine, carrageen, utterly, starstruck, bemused, flattering, trade secret, congealing, vigorously, transfixed, cultivated, erratically, embarking, nobler, ecstatic, sympathetic, profound, contraption, aghast, stuttering, stipulate



Part 2: Miles

Summary

Chapter 1 – Miles’s parents are intellectuals who have written on many subjects, such as codes and languages. His parents worry about Miles’s refusal to go outside and experience things besides just reading about them. They tell him it has been a year since “the day” at the lake. Miles knows participating in the candy contest is the first active thing he has done since then. Miles knows his candy must not only be delicious, but creative. He is curious about something unidentified that happened to Logan some time before, causing massive scarring on Logan’s face, but Daisy warns Miles not to ask about it.

Chapter 2 – Miles continues to wonder about Logan’s scarring, and is also very glad to be friends with Logan. Miles recounts visiting the library on his first day at Life is Sweet, where he met Mrs. Gepheart, the librarian. He remembers selecting five books – about the history of confections, the universe, a dog pooper scooper, the novel “Charlotte’s Web”, and a book about being a monkey’s uncle. He remembers opening these five books randomly, putting his finger on random sentences, and copying those sentences down, believing they will help him over the next few days.

Miles also reflects on how the trip to the Bee Room reminded him of the day at the lake where bees had swarmed over his boat, how a girl sitting on shore drowned trying to avoid the bees, and how the only thing found from her was a pink ribbon. In the Bee Room, Miles remembers how the butterfly he saw was yellow and black like a bee, and how he believed it was a message from the girl from the afterlife. He remembers how the butterfly implanted a desire to win the contest in his mind.

Chapter 3 –While at work in the lab, Miles sees a cloud of sugar puff up from Philip’s workstation, causing Miles and the others to laugh. Miles thinks about how much he has come to love the factory and candymaking. Speaking up to the girl in Heaven, Miles assures her he has received her message, and that he will invent a special candy for her.

Chapter 4 – Miles decides to create a soft, honey-based black licorice-flavored caramel candy resembling a bee. Avery works with Miles to collect the honey. Miles feels the girl’s spirit with him as he works. Max compliments his progress. Miles begins asking around about Logan’s scarring, but nobody will tell Miles as a matter of respect for Logan. Miles continues to butt heads with Philip, with Philip insulting Miles’s friendship with Logan. When Miles defends Logan’s plans about chocolate gum, Miles worries he has told Philip too much of what Logan plans to do.

Miles recalls dropping his flashlight into the chocolate fountain the night of camping in the Tropical Room, and how he pulled out a rubber duck in addition to his flashlight. He remembers going to the bathroom to clean himself off. He reflects on leaving the



bathroom and seeing someone in the Cocoa Room by the files. Miles remembers feeling as if he must defend the Life is Sweet Factory and sneaking in, only to be grabbed by the ankle.

Analysis

In Miles's section of the novel, the past becomes an important theme. It is because of Miles's past that Miles has entered the contest. Having seen a girl about his age drown the year before, Miles has been thrown into depression and isolation, emerging only for the candy competition. Miles strongly believes in the afterlife, and very much believes that he is meant to enter the contest in honor of the girl who died. The past influences Miles's motivation, and here, motivation becomes an important theme as well.

Miles's motivation for entering the contest is admirable. He is seeking to honor the death of the drowned girl by creating a candy dedicated to her memory. Miles comes to create a honey and caramel-shaped bee, a delicious concoction. It is through his work with the candy bees that he begins to grow closer to Logan and to Daisy. Indeed, Logan even strikes up something of a friendship with Logan very quickly. It is through their unfolding friendship that the theme of friendship emerges.

Logan and Miles do not just merely get along or enjoy one another's company, but they are both beholden to the past. It is through Miles that the reader first understands that Logan is heavily scarred from an accident that occurred years before. Whereas Miles is emotionally scarred, Logan is physically scarred. Miles recognizes a sadness in Logan as a result of the past, and this in turn helps them to connect as friends because they are haunted by the past. The past here becomes an important theme.

As Logan and Miles camp out, the reader first suspects that it may be Miles seeking to steal the secret ingredient due to Miles's disappearing just before Logan discovers the burglary in process. However, the reader – and Logan – quickly realize that the thief is not Miles. Miles has no motivation to steal the secret ingredient, which means that the thief is someone else – perhaps a spy, or perhaps even another contestant. This has yet to be revealed.

Discussion Question 1

Miles and Logan quickly connect as friends. Why is this so?

Discussion Question 2

Miles is heavily affected and haunted by the past. Why? What does the past compel Miles to do? Why?



Discussion Question 3

What is Miles's rationale for entering the contest? Do you believe this is a good cause to enter the contest? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

undeniably, churning, dwelling, inexplicably, holographic, frantically, enrober, cascading, fervently



Part 3: Daisy

Summary

Chapter 1 – Daisy is secretly a spy, and securing the candymaker's secret ingredient from the candy factory is her current assignment. She is guided through her actions, words, and activities by her superior, AJ. Daisy has been hired to investigate different cases, such as cheating at a spelling bee. In the present, Daisy wants to win the candy contest to put Philip in his place, for she recognizes Philip from the spelling bee case.

Chapter 2 – In the candy factory, Daisy has the chance to truly be a kid for a little while by actually enjoying the experience of the candy and the contest. Over the few days she is at the factory, Daisy takes every opportunity to defend Logan and Miles against Philip's cruel comments. Daisy reflects on her first day at the factory, when she pretended to go and use the bathroom so she could begin exploring the factory for the job, sneaking into the storeroom in the process. She remembers finding a box of rubber ducks there, among other things. She remembers beginning to feel guilty as she explored. She must constantly remind herself that motives, and right and wrong, are not part of her job description.

Daisy continues to map out the factory as she can. She and AJ decide the crop and grain tunnels beneath the factory are the best escape exit. As she works on her candy, Daisy realizes how much she is genuinely enjoying it, and how she is not acting at all. Daisy asks AJ why the client wants the secret ingredient, but AJ says he doesn't even know that, and it doesn't matter. To get into the cabinet with the secret ingredient, she will have to find a way to get both Lenny and Steve out of the room. Philip suddenly appears, and believes Daisy is talking to herself. He comments that it isn't the first time he has seen her doing it.

Chapter 3 – Back at the farm which doubles as home for the spies, Daisy is happy to see her horse, Magpie, and to see her friend and fellow spy, Courtney. Daisy asks Courtney about jobs, motives, and what is right and wrong, but Courtney reminds Daisy that they are meant to do jobs, not question why they do them. Looking through the case file, Daisy discovers the company Second Enterprises is her client. She learns that Logan was admitted to the hospital at the age of five due to severe burns from a workplace accident, and that he is due for skin grafts in two years. AJ discovers Daisy reading books about bad food, and realizes she is going to ruin another contestant's chances. AJ says he doesn't want to be a part of it.

Daisy discovers two suited men visiting the candy factory. They speak of a man named Big Billy, and Daisy wonders if Big Billy is from Second Enterprises. AJ agrees to do some research into them. As Daisy learns more about the factory, she sees how happy and passionate the people there are about making candy. She begins to wonder why Big Billy, or anyone, would want to take that away. Daisy sees the two men, one older



and one younger, talking to Mr. Sweet, who compliments them on the nougat that their own company makes.

Daisy meets with AJ. AJ reveals that the two visiting candy men are legitimate and have never done anything illegal. Big Billy is Billy Foster, who owns Mmm Mmm Good Candy Company. Daisy confesses she isn't planning to sabotage another contestant, but to ruin the secret ingredient so that it will backfire on whoever steals it. Even AJ is thinking twice about the job now, for he is learning about Logan and the others as Daisy learns about them. Fran comes upon Daisy and AJ, and Daisy introduces AJ as her cousin, Bo. AJ confesses that not everything Daisy knows about herself is true, either. For example, she is thirteen and not twelve. Daisy is stunned.

Inside, Daisy works on her candy. She has no idea what she is making, but adds whatever ingredients she has on hand, creating a green glob of goop. Daisy sneaks around the factory that night, coming to the Cocoa Room. There, she is stunned to see who is trying to steal the secret ingredient.

Analysis

Daisy represents perhaps the most unusual character of the novel. While the reader may have imagined that Logan – a scarred kid living in a candy company – would be the most unusual character, it is Daisy who really floors the reader. Daisy is a teenaged spy from a family of spies who take jobs from clients around the world. It is through Daisy's character that the theme of morality again comes to the fore.

Daisy's work as a spy is morally ambivalent, meaning that Daisy is not concerned with what is right and what is wrong, but only with getting the job done to get paid. As AJ reminds Daisy, their job is not to question why, but to do the job that they have been given. Daisy has believed this wholeheartedly as well until the present time. Daisy, who gets to be a kid for once, comes to see how happy and passionate the employees of Life is Sweet are about making candy – and this experience with genuineness on the part of herself, and of the employees – she reconsiders what she is doing. She realizes how devastated these people will be if she pulls off the heist, so she decides to sabotage Second Enterprise's plot instead.

It is through Daisy's decision to turn against her client that the theme of motivation also becomes apparent. When Daisy first arrives at the candy factory, she views stealing the secret ingredient as nothing more than a job. After her moral awakening, Daisy realizes that the jobs she does have consequences – and so she endeavors to make things right by questioning the morality of the current heist. Her motivations shift: she goes from seeking to steal the secret ingredient to ruining it in order to protect it from use by Second Enterprise.

It is also through Daisy's decision to turn against Second Enterprises that the theme of coming of age becomes apparent as well. Daisy's morally ambivalent approach to her work leaves much to be desired: she has no moral compass. It is a place from which



she must – and does – grow. Only personal experience with the people whom she is trying to swindle causes her to reflect on what she is doing. Her moral character grows exponentially as a result in that she is willing to sabotage the people who hired her out of moral justice. It is no longer just work for Daisy, but principles that are at stake. Daisy recognizes how she has been wrong, and now seeks to make it right. It is an impressive display of coming of age.

Daisy also interestingly is torn by the past, just as Logan and Miles are. The past continues to be a powerful theme as this section of the novel unfolds. Daisy's background and history as a spy – being from a family of spies for that matter – weighs down heavily on her. Her type of work requires much time, pretending, and patience – and her experience at the candy factory causes her to rethink her childhood because hasn't truly had one. For the first time, she is allowed to truly be a kid while working with and hanging out with Logan and Miles. It is possible that Logan and Miles sense the sadness in Daisy, creating an unspoken bond between them and bringing them closer together in the process.

Discussion Question 1

How does Daisy's time at Life is Sweet compare and contrast with her life as a spy? What does she come to like better? Why?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Daisy ultimately decide to halt work for Second Enterprise, and to defend Life is Sweet? How does she do this? Why?

Discussion Question 3

What is Daisy's rationale for entering the contest? Do you believe this is a good cause to enter the contest? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

subtlest, bickering, smugness, bristling, taunted, alterations, mesmerized, stifled, tentatively, bellowed, edible, diabolical



Part 4: Philip

Summary

Chapter 1 – Philip's entry into the candy contest has been all about revenge and to put a humiliating day at the factory behind him. Philip has learned to cheat, lie, and steal his way through contests from his older brother, Andrew. Philip puts these skills to use in everyday life as well. Philip has also learned from Andrew that the ends justify the means. Philip is always escorted by his father's bodyguard, Reggie. Reggie knows Philip's deepest secret: that Philip dearly misses his dead mother, and has taught himself to play stringed instruments like his mother.

As Philip explains to Reggie, this isn't his first encounter with Logan. When they were children, Logan had asked to see Philip's toy truck, which was dropped accidentally into a chocolate vat, gumming up the works, disrupting productivity, and ending public tours. Philip himself is banned on the spot, without Logan saying a word. Philip never enjoys candy again. He is determined to win the contest no matter how he does it, to humiliate Logan. Philip goes out of his way to annoy people and keep them away, because it lets him get away with more stuff. Philip reflects on seeing Logan's scarred face for the first time, and how it has almost changed his mind about what he is determined to do.

Chapter 2 – Philip reflects on seeing Logan again for the first time in years, and how despite Logan's changed physical appearance, Logan is probably still the same person. In the present, as the days pass, Philip writes in his notebook again and again. He is composing music in his mind and writing it down on paper. Philip then reflects on how Henry had recognized him when no one else had.

Chapter 3 – Traveling through the factory grounds, Philip remembers visiting as a child and giving up a souvenir rubber duck to another child. Philip finds such a duck in the present in the storeroom, and keeps it. He also finds a stack of stringed instruments, including an original 1727 Stradivarius violin. He begins playing but stops when he hears people in the hallway. That afternoon, he is stunned that his father picks him up from the factory. Philip confirms to his father there is a secret ingredient in the Cocoa Room.

His father then calls an unknown man confirming the existence of the secret ingredient tin, and that whoever is on the other end of the phone will be able to put Life is Sweet out of business once the tin is stolen. Philip's father confirms to Philip that he has been planning this for seven years. Philip is later taken by Reggie to a stop at an old, run-down four-story apartment building where his mother grew up. It saddens him to know that his mother always wanted more for him than she had, but not dishonestly.

Chapter 4 – Philip insists to Reggie that his father's plans have nothing to do with him. All Philip wants to do is win the contest, not think about his mother and what she would think of the pending theft. At the factory, Philip collects mallow roots for marshmallows.



During this time, Henry reveals the root of Logan's scars. He explains that a businessman and his two sons toured the factory years before, and that the younger son ran around the factory all day with Logan, leading to the truck incident.

Henry explains that the Candymaker said such an accident was no big deal – which stuns Philip. Henry goes on to explain that the Candymaker wanted the boy to come back to play again. After the boy left, Logan tried to retrieve the truck on his own, half-falling into a vat of scalding chocolate, resulting in the disfiguring scars. The little boy, Henry goes on, was never banned at all. Philip then excuses himself and calls Reggie to explain what he has learned. Reggie confirms that he had suspicions about the banishment.

Philip then calls his father, striking a deal: if Philip wins the contest, his father can have all the profits in exchange for not ruining the factory. His father laughs and agrees, thinking Philip doesn't have a chance. Henry offers to help Philip. Philip's idea is based on his mother's chocolate mint squares. Henry thinks the idea is good, but needs a little something extra. While in the storeroom again, Philip discovers a box of harmonicas – and has an idea.

Chapter 5 – Philip decides to create a candy harmonica that actually plays. It will be composed of chocolate, cookie, and marshmallow candy. Reggie calls Philip to explain that Philip's father hasn't called off his inside man assigned to steal the secret ingredient. Philip goes to the storeroom to play the violin for a few minutes. Philip then gets to work, but it is hard to get the harmonica closet to being right. Philip realizes he is running out of time. That night, he discovers Steve working late.

While waiting outside, Philip comes upon a newly-transformed butterfly and its cocoon. He collects the cocoon and brings it with him, discovering his duck is now gone. Back inside the factory, Philip moves to steal the tin, only to be confronted by Daisy. In a tense exchange, they reveal what they are doing – Philip is trying to save the factory by winning the contest, and Daisy is Philip's father's inside man. They then hear someone sneeze.

Analysis

Philip appears to be the most complex of all the characters in the novel. He is driven by a mix of anger and desire for revenge, which prove to be his primary motivation. Revenge on Life is Sweet for the truck incident is Philip's rationale for entering the contest. Here, the theme of motivation becomes most important, accordingly. Philip, like Daisy, ultimately has a change of heart about what he has come to do.

Philip's desire to win the contest and humiliate Logan is ultimately supplanted by the horror that he is a pawn in one of his father's takeover schemes. Philip discovers that everything he has based his plot of revenge on – the truck incident cause him to be banned from the factory – is a lie crafted by his father to ultimately buy Life is Sweet. Philip is enraged upon discovering this. Owing to the fact that he is not particularly close



to his father, Philip's motivation changes from revenge against Logan to revenge against his own father.

Philip knows that his father is actively seeking to steal the secret ingredient, and has hired several people to do the job – including Daisy. Yet, Philip knows that if he himself steals the secret ingredient – to protect rather than profit from it – he will save the company. Indeed, Philip's motivations transform from wholly self-serving to wholly selfless. It is a remarkable transformation and coming of age. Here, the theme of coming of age emerges strongly.

Coming of age entails not only a shift in Philip's motivation to protect rather than harm Life is Sweet, but in the underlying morality of the whole operation. Here, morality becomes a key theme for Philip's storyline. Philip has been raised in morally relative way, in the form of utilitarianism – that the ends justify the means. Philip has always unconcernedly lived by his ability to cheat, lie, and steal his way through life so long as the goal or objective pays off. In the present time now, Philip has a moral crisis and in so doing comes of age in his turning.

A decisive factor in that transformation is the past. Philip has long been haunted not only by his banishment from Life is Sweet, but by the death of his mother. Philip deeply loved his mother, and he seeks to emulate her by teaching himself how to play the violin the way that she did. The reader should also note Philip's encounter with the beat-up brick building where his mother grew up, and the knowledge that his mother had no problem with advancing or achieving things in life, so long as it was done honestly and genuinely. It is clear Philip's mother is a role model for him, not merely in music, but in morality as well. It is why Philip decides to challenge his father, staking Life is Sweet on winning the competition.

Discussion Question 1

What is Philip's original goal when he comes to Life is Sweet? Why? How does this change over time? Why?

Discussion Question 2

What is Philip's rationale for entering the contest? Do you believe this is a good cause to enter the contest? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 3

Compare and contrast the role models that Philip's mother, father, and older brother provide. Which role model ultimately wins out in Philip's life? How? Why?

Vocabulary

nostalgia, prestigious, sophisticated, exasperation, numbness, biased, collaborative, foiled, prototypes



Part 5: Logan Again

Summary

Chapter 1 – It is Miles who sneezed. Logan hopes that Daisy and Philip haven't heard Miles. Logan struggles to make sense of the idea that both Philip and Daisy want the secret ingredient. It is then that they are found by Philip and Daisy. They agree they all need to talk.

Chapter 2 – Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip go to the cafeteria for food and then gather in the Tropical Room. Daisy reveals she was trying to steal the tin to ruin the ingredient by adding sopa so it would backfire on the thieves. Philip explains he was trying to steal the secret ingredient tin to win the contest to save the factory. Philip confirms his father runs Second Enterprises. Daisy insists to the others that they are all friends, despite the original motives that brought them to the factory. Daisy reveals she is a spy, born into a family network of spies. She reveals that Philip blew her cover during the spelling bee case at Harrison Elementary three years ago. Logan is amazed.

Daisy explains she has had to undergo all sorts of training, such as swimming across an entire lake underwater at Verona Park. Miles realizes the girl he thought drowned was Daisy. Daisy reveals she doesn't remember any bees being around, but that her father was testing her abilities. Miles hugs Daisy, thrilled she is alive. Miles reveals the lake and bee incident to the others. He reveals the orange thing he always carries in his backpack is a life vest.

Philip then reveals his plans to win the contest to prevent his father from enacting his plan to ruin and buy the factory. Philip also reveals his father doesn't think he can win, and that his mother has been dead for years after getting sick. Logan, Daisy, and Miles all agree to work with Philip to perfect Philip's idea to win the contest. As they head back to the lab, they discover AJ has been watching them. She reveals AJ's true identity. AJ says everything has been compromised, and that they need to leave immediately. Daisy refuses, telling AJ to tell her grandmother the truth about what has happened.

Chapter 3 – Philip reveals his candy harmonica's progress. The others are impressed. Logan delegates jobs. Philip will be in charge of the musical aspect, Daisy in charge of chocolate, and Miles in charge of molds. Suddenly, Mr. Sweet appears with snacks and blankets. He explains he himself stayed up late the night before the contest years ago. The four friends resume work.

Chapter 4 – Logan and the others work late into the night, nearly falling asleep. Logan and Miles realizes that they will have to come up with good reasons to drop out of the contest so that Philip can present their idea. Daisy's real age will disqualify her. Miles will enter a pie and disqualify himself. Daisy thinks Logan should stay in the competition, just to be in it. Philip explains that there are many ways to buy a company not for sale, such as finding a way to ensure a company's products stop being sold in stores Logan



agrees to enter his Bubbletastic CocoRocket, while the group names Philip's harmonica candy the Harmonicandy.

Chapter 5 – Mrs. Sweet serves chocolate chip pancakes for breakfast. The final touches are then put on the Harmonicandy. Daisy gives Logan a note from his mother, which speaks of counting blessings. Nevertheless, Logan is a little let down about his bubble gum not turning back into chocolate. Philip tells Logan that the chocolate gum rockets will work.

Chapter 6 – Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip travel two hours to the city center for the Confectionary Association's Annual Convention. They are driven by Max and Logan's father. The convention building smells wonderful inside, and is full of all kinds of candies and exhibits. Moving throughout the building, Logan feels bad about all the other kids who will lose the contest. Logan's father and Big Billy happily greet one another.

Philip quietly reveals to Logan, Daisy, and Miles that his father is sending over a spy to steal the secret ingredient that day. Philip reveals he has the tin, though he has not looked inside, saying it wouldn't be right. Daisy decides to set up her 3Gs, knowing they taste horrible and will never win. Logan puts out his Bubbletastic ChocoRockets. Philip then displays the Harmonicandy. Miles then sets up his pie.

Chapter 7 – Philip goes off to find Henry to explain the pie as a last-minute attempt because the Bee Happy candy was lost in the bathroom. Miles's pie is disqualified. Logan asks Miles if his life since thinking Daisy drowned has been worth it. Miles agrees that it has, for he has learned many new things as a result. Logan himself can't remember much of his accident because he was so young. Daisy hugs Logan, telling him that he will always be him, no matter how he looks. The judges convene the contest. The official judging begins. The judges make their way to the Harmonicandy, and are amazed that it plays musical notes. Another judge, however, seems to be amazed by the candy ice cream, which she can't stop eating. Logan and the others are suspicious.

Philip distracts the entire room by playing the violin. It gives Daisy time to grab some ice cream candy and run away with it. Logan and Miles join her. Logan tastes the ice cream to determine the ingredients. He thinks there may be an unlisted ingredient in the I Scream ice cream candy, but he cannot be sure. Philip appears a moment later, dismayed to learn the ice cream candy appears legitimate. The other three compliment him on his music.

AJ appears in disguise as an event coordinator to tell Logan that if Logan agrees to change the description of his candy, he'll win the contest according to Old Sammy, a judge and friend of Logan's family. Logan wants to win, but not like that. AJ reveals that Old Sammy thinks Logan is brave for continuing to be himself despite his scarring. Logan refuses to change his description. Logan then realizes what the unknown ingredient in the I Scream is: caffeine. AJ reports this to the judges. The entry is disqualified.



Chapter 8 – Philip Ransford III's Harmonicandy is declared the contest winner. Mr. Sweet comforts Logan, but Logan insists they have all won because Philip won. Philip asks Mrs. Sweet to accompany him onstage, and Logan nods that it is okay. He receives his prize money. Big Billy then announces he is breaking up his company, Mmm Mmm Good, so that each of its candy lines will be produced at other candy companies. Philip receives word that his father will soon be there. Philip then gives Mr. Sweet the tin, saying there is a long story behind it. Mr. Sweet tells the four kids to look inside. They are stunned to see it is empty.

Chapter 9 – Looking into the tin, the four friends can see their faces. The people who make the candy are the special ingredient. Mr. Sweet explains that it is a tradition for all companies to have such a tin. The four friends are very happy.

The Next Day – Daisy uses her communication device to confront her mother about being thirteen. Daisy asks for a break from the spy world. Her mother agrees, saying that just because she is good at something, doesn't mean she has to do it. Her mother and her father will be home in a week and will talk about it more. Before her mother hangs up, she mentions that Daisy has a brother that she never knew about. She then meets up with Miles to go out on the lake in a rowboat with Philip. Philip is excited that his father doesn't care that he plays the violin, and wants to tell Logan about this. Logan arrives with the Stradivarius violin – a gift to Philip from the Sweets.

Logan waits onshore while his three friends row out into the lake. There, Philip opens a letter from Logan. The letter tells Philip that Logan doesn't blame him for the scarring at all. He thanks Philip for treating him like a normal kid. He hopes for a continued friendship with Philip. A gift accompanies the letter. It is Philip's toy truck. Onshore, Logan opens a package given to him from Daisy. It includes a note about how if things never changed, there'd be no butterflies. Included is a photo of Logan from childhood with a butterfly on his nose. He wonders where the picture came from, or who originally took it. He also intends to tell Philip that the violin he now has was actually built by Logan's grandfather. These things can come later, he knows, because now they are all candymakers.

Analysis

As the novel concludes, all mysteries of motivation are made clear in through the theme of friendship. Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip realize they must now all work together to save Life is Sweet. As they work together, they grow closer personally as friends. By the end of the novel, a startling number of truths emerge as a result of the genuineness of their friendship. These truths help to alter the perceptions of different characters and how they have been bound together by things outside the contest for longer than any of them could have imagined. Daisy, for example, is the girl that Miles believed he saw drown – and his strange allergies are not really allergies at all, but aversions to things that reminded him of that day.



The friendship that has now grown solid between Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip sustains them through the contest. They work together, loyal to and dependent upon one another, to reveal the I Scream as having caffeine in it. They work together to make sure Philip's Harmonicandy is the best that it can be so that it wins. Even once the contest is won and the factory is saved, friendship shines through because the four friends remain together. They are clearly kept together by their friendship. The contest may have brought them together for different reasons, but now they are staying together as a result of common friendship.

Indeed, the friendship between them puts to rest much of the past as well, and also serves as a springboard for coming of age. Philip understands that Logan's scarring is from the attempt to retrieve the truck from a vat of scalding hot chocolate, but Logan doesn't blame Philip for it. Philip comes to accept that his mother is gone but still matters in his life, and that the ends do not always justify the means. The ends are just as important. Each of the friends have been transformed metaphorically from caterpillars to butterflies.

Here, the theme of morality reaches its summit as Philip comes to truly understand the difference between right and wrong. The same is true of Daisy, who recognizes that work cannot only be about pay, but must be just as well. Miles recognizes that he can't be drawn down by the past, but must look to the future with hope. Logan likewise learns that a love for candymaking will make him a good and reputable candymaker, not winning a contest.

The reader should note as well how passion becomes important here as well through the secret ingredient. Logan and the others are stunned to discover the tin is empty, except for their reflections at the bottom. They do not understand what this means until Logan's dad explains it. The secret ingredient is not physical, but mental and emotional. The key to making good candy is the people who make it, and the love they pour into what they do. Likewise, the secret candy ingredient is metaphorical for the secret ingredients to life at large: love, be it familial, romantic, friendship, or all of these. By the end of the novel, Logan and his friends realize that they do have these secret ingredients to life.

Discussion Question 1

When Philip reveals his bet with his father to Logan, Miles, and Daisy, who is skeptical and who believes Philip? Why?

Discussion Question 2

Select either Logan, Daisy, Miles, or Philip, and explain how motivation and morality have affected this character between the beginning of the novel and the end of the novel. How have the characters changed? Why? What effect does this changing have on the plot and on the other characters?



Discussion Question 3

Do you agree or disagree with Logan's father's assertion that the secret ingredient to candy (or to life, in general) includes the candymaker and the love he or she pours into what he or she does? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

echoed, conceded, calculus, grimaced, compromised, disqualify, cavernous, innovations, nonexistent, guffawed, queasy, audible, untethered



Characters

Logan

Logan Sweet is the 12-year old-son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sweet. He is one of four contestants selected to participate in the Confectionary Association's annual new candy contest. Logan's parents are candymakers. As owners and operators of the Life is Sweet Candy factory, they live in a warm and cozy apartment in the building. Logan has grown up around candy, and aspires to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps not only be becoming a candymaker himself, but by winning the contest as they did. Logan, who has never been very good at making candy, hopes that winning the contest will prove his worth.

Horribly disfigured by scalding chocolate at the age of five when he went to retrieve a fallen toy truck for Philip, Logan has no friends his own age because he has been homeschooled since the accident. In the present, he is thrilled to have other kids around his own age, even if it is only for the contest.

As the contest gets underway, Logan befriends Daisy and Miles. Logan seeks to make a chocolate gum that turns to chocolate and back to gum again. He is unsuccessful in doing this. When he learns from Philip of the plot to steal the secret ingredient, he teams up with the other three contestants to perfect Philip's Harmonicandy to win the contest and save the Life is Sweet factory. Logan learns as a result that candymaking isn't about winning contests, but about doing what one loves. By the end of the novel, Logan has become good friends with Daisy, Miles, and Philip.

Miles

Miles O'Leary is one of the four 12-year-old contestants to enter the Confectionary Association's annual new candy contest. Miles is a very intelligent boy who believes deeply in the afterlife. He is haunted by seeing a girl drown one year before. His entering the contest is his way of honoring her memory.

Miles, sensing sadness in Logan, quickly befriends him as the contest gets underway. Miles comes to create a honey-based black licorice caramel in the shape of a bee which he calls "Bee Happy".

Miles is thrilled to discover that the girl he thought drowned is still alive, and is Daisy. Miles becomes part of the effort to perfect Philip's candy to win the contest and save the factory. Miles comes to learn that he can't afraid to live in the present or the future because of the past, and so he looks forward to his new friendship with Logan, Daisy, and Philip.



Daisy

Daisy Carpenter is a 13-year-old contestant in the Confectionary Association's annual new candy contest. Daisy is secretly a spy from a family of spies who has been all over the world on different jobs for different clients. She never questions the morality of her jobs, but merely does them. Her current assignment is from Philip's father at Second Enterprises, and involves stealing the secret ingredient from Life is Sweet. While at Life is Sweet, Daisy gets to be around kids her own age, and gets to be a kid herself for the first time since she can remember. She enjoys it, and comes to question how anyone would want to take away the happiness of the people who work at Life is Sweet by stealing their secret ingredient. As a result, Daisy has a moral transformation and turns against her client. She works with Logan, Miles, and Philip to win the contest and save the factory.

Philip

Philip Ransford III is one of the four contestants to enter the Confectionary Association's annual new candy contest. When the novel begins, Philip seeks revenge for being banned from the Life is Sweet candy company when, as a child, he and Logan lost a toy truck in a vat of chocolate. Philip hopes to embarrass Logan by winning the contest. As Philip later learns, his father made up the story about being banned as part of a takeover plot.

Philip turns against his father, striking a deal: if he can win the contest, his father will not go after Life is Sweet. Philip ultimately befriends and enlists the help of Logan, Miles, and Daisy to perfect the Harmoncandy – a candy harmonica. It wins the contest and helps to save the factory. The musical aspect of the Harmoncandy is reflective of Philip's own hidden nature. He deeply misses and emulates his dead mother, and teaches himself to play the violin the way that she did.

Richard Sweet

Richard Sweet is the father of Logan Sweet, and is the owner and operator of Life is Sweet Candy Company and Factory. Richard is a gentle, patient, and thoughtful man who is thrilled to have the region's contestants for the contest gather at his factory. Richard is very proud of his son for gaining entry to the contest, and for wanting to win without help. After the contest is won by Philip, Richard reveals the secret ingredient tin to the four kids. He says the secret ingredient is the people who work on the candy, and the love they pour into their work. It is a comforting lesson learned by Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip.

Henry

Henry is the oldest and longest-serving employee of the Life is Sweet Candy Company and Factory. Henry has been employed from the start when Logan's grandfather first opened the factory. He works in the Marshmallow Department. Henry is kind, gentle, and full of wisdom. He is admired greatly by Logan, who often seeks Henry out for stories of the past. Henry himself works in marshmallows, and helps to boost the confidence of the contestants through kind words and help on their projects.

Max

Max Pinkus is a confectionary scientist employed by the Life is Sweet Candy Company and Factory. He is a brilliant man, responsible for the invention of the famous bestselling Icy Mint Blob. Max serves as a friend and mentor to Logan, and as a mentor and guide for Daisy, Philip, and Miles through the conduct of the contest.

Philip's mother

Philip's mother is spoken of, but never seen in the novel. She has been dead for some nine years. She is remembered as a sweet, beautiful, and gentle woman who could play the violin well. Philip misses her greatly, and takes up the violin after her. He learns that his mother always supported ambition, advancement, and achievement, but only insofar as it was earned, deserved, and done honestly. Philip ultimately comes to take after his mother in this regard as well.

Philip's father

Philip's father is a distant, overbearing businessman who owns and operates Second Enterprise. Philip's father has been plotting for seven years to ruin, take over, and then expand Life is Sweet Candy Company and Factory. He employs Daisy to steal the company's secret ingredient, and uses his own son as an unwitting pawn in the struggle. Philip's father has little regard for Philip, so he agrees to the bet that Philip can't win the contest in exchange for not taking over the company. Philip's father is stunned when Philip wins, and ceases with his attempts to take over Life is Sweet.

AJ

AJ is a 17-year-old spy handler employed by Daisy's family of spies. AJ is Daisy's guide in the field, directing her as to how to act, think, and speak when she is on a job. AJ, like Daisy, comes to have a moral awakening through the experience with the candy contest. He begins working with Daisy and the others to help them win the contest.



Symbols and Symbolism

Secret ingredient tin

The Candymaker's secret ingredient tin is kept in a filing cabinet in the Cocoa Room. It is surprisingly unguarded and easy to access. The tin becomes the objective of Daisy when she is employed by Philip's father and Second Enterprise. Daisy first seeks to steal the tin, but then morally turns against the plot instead. Philip himself comes to want to steal the tin – not to use it, but to protect it against his father. Logan's father ultimately reveals the secret ingredient and tin to Logan, Daisy, Philip, and Miles at the end of the novel. The tin is empty, save for the reflection of their faces at the bottom. Logan's father explains the secret ingredients are actually the people who make the candy, and the love they pour into what they do.

Butterflies

Butterflies are seen as metaphorical for change in the novel. Butterflies begin as caterpillars, build cocoons, and turn into butterflies. They symbolically come of age, becoming a completely different creature than what they had been before. The same is true of Logan, Miles, Daisy, and Philip, who are far different than how they were at the beginning of the novel.

Bubblastic ChocoRocket

Bubblastic ChocoRocket is Logan's candy creation for the contest. It is envisioned to be a gun that turns to chocolate and then turns back to gum again perpetually. Unfortunately, the chocolate gum does not do what it is intended to do despite Logan's best efforts. He does not win the contest as a result.

Pepsicles

Pepsicles are peppermint ice pops created by Logan's father decades before, winning the candy contest when he is Logan's age. The Pepsicles may not be flashy, but they are delicious and evidence of the time in which they were created. Logan explains to Philip that this is so because most people were just beginning to get freezers in their homes, making the Pepsicle a beloved commodity.

Harmonicandy

Harmonicandy is a candy harmonica designed and developed by Philip, with later assistance from Logan, Miles, and Daisy. The Harmonicandy is a mix of chocolate and marshmallow. It can be both played and eaten. The Harmonicandy wins the candy



contest, which in turn saves the Life is Sweet company from being taken over by Philip's father's company, Second Enterprise.

Notebook

A small notebook is carried and scribbled in by Philip throughout the novel. At first, Logan and the other kids believe Philip is taking down notes and observations relating to the candy contest. It is later learned that Philip is not taking notes at all, but writing down music he is creating in his head in emulation of his mother.

3Gs

3Gs – the Green glob of goop – is the candy created by Daisy for the contest. She uses whatever ingredients she has at hand to put together a mock candy just to get by for the purposes of spying. The 3Gs do not taste good at all, and ensure she does not win the contest.

Life vest

A life vest is carried by Miles in a backpack everywhere Miles goes, even on dry land. This is due to the lake incident when Miles was attacked by bees and believed he saw a girl drown. The life vest is on hand for the purposes of saving anyone who might be drowning should Philip ever encounter a similar situation again.

Toy truck

A toy truck is carried by the 5-year-old Philip on a tour of Life is Sweet. Logan accidentally drops the truck in a vat of chocolate. Philip's father uses this as the foundation for a lie that Philip has been banned from the factory. Hoping to be friends with Philip, Logan goes into the chocolate vat without thinking to retrieve the truck, leading to horrible burns and scarring. Years later, after the contest, Logan returns the truck to Philip in a heartwarming gesture of friendship.

Comm device

A communications device, or comm device, is kept and carried by Daisy. The device is disguised as a romance novel called "Love's Last Dance" which Daisy always has her nose in. Not until later is it revealed that the novel is actually a comm device she uses to keep in touch with AJ and members of her family as they travel around the world on assignment.

Bee Happy

Bee Happy candy is developed by Miles in tribute to Daisy, whom Miles thought drowned the year before. The candy is honey-based black licorice caramel and chocolate shaped to look like bees. The candy is delicious, so Miles refuses to enter it in the contest recognizing that the future of Life is Sweet depends upon Philip winning the contest.



Settings

Life is Sweet Candy Company and Factory

Life is Sweet Candy Company and Factory is a massive factory building owned and overseen by Logan's father and mother, having been founded by Logan's grandfather. The company and factory employs dozens of people, and is divided into departments and specialty rooms, from the creation of chocolate to marshmallows, gummy candy, ingredient extraction, and an indoor tropical forest. The land around the company is sown with crops and plants used in the creation of the candy. The company factory itself is also host to a warm and cozy apartment where Logan and his family live. Life is Sweet plays host to the Region III contestants from the Confectionary Association's annual new candy contest. There, Max, Henry, Avery, and others help Logan, Miles, Daisy, and Philip to craft their candies. The company itself becomes the target of Philip's father's company Second Enterprise, as Philip's father endeavors to steal Life is Sweet's secret ingredient to put them out of business.

The Cocoa Room

The Cocoa Room is located in the Life is Sweet Candy Company. It is where chocolate production and experimentation is carried out, and is where the candymaker's secret ingredient tin is kept in a filing cabinet. The Cocoa Room becomes the gathering place for Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip the night before the contest when they discover they are all trying to do the same thing: save the secret ingredient from being stolen.

Spring Haven

Spring Haven is the American city in an unidentified state in which the Life is Sweet Candy Company and Factory, and Verona Lake, are located. Spring Haven appears to be a warm and friendly city, heavily suburban, and is home to Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip. It is a part of Region III for the annual new candy contest, and is the city from which Logan, Miles, Daisy and Philip must travel to hours to reach the Confectionary Association Annual Convention.

Verona Lake

Verona Lake is a beautiful lake and park located in Spring Haven. Verona Lake's focal point is a massive lake which serves as the source of one of Miles's worst memories. There, Miles was horrified to see a girl apparently drown. As a result, he always carries around a life preserver, and develops an aversion to anything that reminds him of the incident—such as rowboats. Miles is thrilled to learn later that the girl is Daisy, and Daisy is very much still alive.

The Confectionary Association Annual Convention

The Confectionary Association Annual Convention is held in an un identified city two hours away from Spring Haven. The convention features candy samples, candy and candy-related exhibits, and hosts the annual new candy contest at which the 32 contestants and their candies are presented. The Confectionary Association Annual Convention is where Logan, Miles, Daisy, and Philip travel to present their candy, expose the use of caffeine in judge-favorite I Scream, and where Philip is awarded first prize.



Themes and Motifs

Coming of Age

Coming of age is an important theme in the novel “The Candymakers” by Wendy Mass. Coming of age involves the personal, spiritual, moral, or emotional growth and maturation of an individual often based on real world experiences, events, or mistakes. In the novel, Logan, Miles, Daisy, and Philip all come of age in some way.

At the start of the novel, Logan appears best poised to win the candy contest. He lives in a candy factory, and is the son of a candymaker. However, Logan is the character least confident in his abilities. He is scared to death that he will not win the contest. Despite his upbringing, Logan has not yet mastered candymaking. He hopes winning the contest will cement his place as an up-and-coming candymaker, and will prove to others he has what it takes. Logan’s lack of confidence and reasons for entering the contest are places from which he grows and comes of age. Logan comes to realize by the end of the novel that he should have entered the contest out of love for candymaking, not simply for the prestige of winning. Likewise, his loss actually reinforces his confidence in himself, as he realizes he does indeed have what it takes to one day succeed his father – and no contest can determine that.

At the start of the novel, Miles is a withdrawn and haunted kid without many friends. One year before the events of the novel, he witnessed what appeared to be the drowning of a girl. This caused him to become introverted and introspective, escaping in books and learning things about the afterlife. Miles’s reasoning for entering the contest is because he hopes to honor the girl’s memory by making a candy inspired by her. Miles is quiet, unsure, and lonely – all a place from which he will grow as he meets and befriends Logan, Daisy, and Philip. By the end of the novel, Miles is relieved to learn that the girl supposedly drowned – Daisy – is still alive and well. His depression withers under this knowledge, and in the light of his new friends. As such, he is now more confident and happier. He realizes he cannot allow himself to be dragged down by the past, but must live for the future.

When the novel begins, Daisy enters the contest as a way to carry out a spy job: the theft of the secret ingredient for Philip’s father and his company, Second Enterprise. Daisy, owing to her job, never questions the morality of the job itself. The job and the pay are what count. Likewise, Daisy has never really had the chance to be a kid since her work keeps her so busy. While at Life is Sweet, she gets to enjoy being a kid for the first time ever, and she grows close to Logan, his family, and the people who work at Life is Sweet. For the first time ever, Daisy sees the people who she is working against firsthand and personally. She begins to question the moral rightness of her job, of stealing something from so many good people who love what they do for a living. Daisy ultimately turns against her client, siding with Logan and Life is Sweet.



Philip, when the novel begins, is moved by revenge for the toy truck incident that occurred seven years before. Philip has grown up with his brother as a model, lying, cheating, and stealing in order to get ahead in life. Philip believes that the ends justify the means, no matter who has to be hurt in the process. Philip's relative immorality and cruelty are places from which he must grow and come of age. As Philip learns the truth behind the truck incident – that he was never banned, that it was part of a ploy by his father to take over Life is Sweet, and that Logan hoped to be friends with Philip by rescuing his truck – Philip changes completely. He turns against his father, and does everything he can to protect Life is Sweet – and his friendship with Logan and the others. Philip realizes that, as his mother argued, the means are as important as the ends, and that is certainly true now.

Morality

Morality is an important theme in the novel “The Candymakers” by Wendy Mass. Morality – essentially what is right and what is wrong – appears in the novel with respect to the secret ingredient at Life is Sweet, and the characters of Daisy and Philip.

When the novel begins, Daisy has been tasked by Philip's father through Second Enterprise to steal the secret ingredient at Life is Sweet. Daisy has been on dozens of missions before. Her role is to do the job successfully and get paid. Daisy, owing to the spy code of conduct, never questions whether the jobs she pulls are morally right or morally wrong, until the time she spends at Life is Sweet.

The time she spends there is an awakening for Daisy. She is able to enjoy being a genuine kid for once, spending time with good and genuine people. It causes her to question why anyone would want to harm such good and genuine people. This in turn causes her to question the moral correctness of her job to steal a secret ingredient. Ultimately, Daisy decides that the job is morally indefensible, and takes the very moral position of defending Life is Sweet against Second Enterprise.

When the novel begins, Philip is determined to enter the contest purely to humiliate Logan by winning. Philip has taken the very immoral position that he will do whatever he must to win. Philip is decidedly utilitarian – that the ends justify the means, the goal justifies how the goal is achieved. Philip has learned this pragmatic way of approaching life from his brother and father. While utilitarianism itself is not necessarily immoral, it is always morally questionable. Yet Philip does not question his outlook on life until he learns a staggering truth.

Philip discovers he was never banned from the factory, and that he is just a part of a larger plot hatched by his father to take over Life is Sweet. When he learns that his mother was a moral absolutist – that the means do matter in achieving ends – and that his mother valued honesty and earning things, Philip has an awakening. He rallies together with Daisy, Logan, and Miles to save Life is Sweet against his father's plot. Philip comes to realize that how goals are achieved is just as important as the goal itself.



Motivation

Motivation is an important theme in the novel “The Candymakers” by Wendy Mass. Motivation is what drives, inspires, or compels a character to do something. In the novel, each of the characters have an initial motivation which is transformed into a second motivation based on events of the plot as it unfolds, all in relation to the candy contest.

When the novel begins, Logan is thrilled to have been selected to participate in the contest. Logan’s goal is to win the contest in order to gain prestige and prove he has what it takes to be a candymaker. He also wants to uphold the tradition of winning set by his father and grandfather. However, Logan later comes to discover through working to create candy for the contest, and as a result of the secret ingredient, that he has entered the contest for the wrong reasons. He should have entered the contest based on love of what he does with candy, not merely to win. Love and passion for his craft ultimately come to fuel Logan.

When the novel begins, Miles is excited to be a part of the new candy contest. Miles’s goal is to create a candy to honor the memory of the girl who he believes he witnessed drowning. Miles’s motivation for entering the contest is rooted in the past, in what has been, rather than optimism about the future, or what could be. When Miles discovers the girl, Daisy, is still alive, Miles is thrilled. He is able to break out of his shell, and his motivation in the contest becomes saving the candy factory for the future.

At the beginning of the novel, Daisy is a spy who has entered the contest as a result of a job brought on by a client to steal the Life is Sweet secret ingredient. Daisy’s motivation is wholly about business and doing a job. However, her chance to be a kid and to be around honest and genuine people for a couple of days wakes her up to the world she has been missing, and to the idea of morality. She comes to turn against her client, motivated now by friendship, goodness, and morality.

When the novel begins, Philip is motivated wholly by revenge. He wants to humiliate Logan by winning the candy competition. Philip’s greed and need to avenge a perceived past wrong fuel him with a kind of hatred. But as Philip learns his revenge is merely a small role in a large scheme orchestrated by his father to take over Life is Sweet. After learning this, and learning that his mother only ever approved of doing things honestly, Philip has a change of heart. His motivation is transformed from trying to humiliate Logan to saving his family’s company.

The Past

The past is an important theme in the novel “The Candymakers” by Wendy Mass. The past – essentially, recent and distant events and history – has a strong bearing on the present in the novel. It largely determines the present and the choices that each of the primary characters make.



The past for Logan consists of emotional and physical scars. Emotional pain is brought on by recent events – that Logan cannot seem to get his act together to be a good candymaker. He has tried extensively to do well at making candy, but he has been unable to get the hang of it so far. His recent failures have severely affected him the present, thinking he may not be good enough to either be a candymaker, or win the contest. Events of the distant past provide physical scars for Logan: his attempt at retrieving Philip's toy truck from a vat of scalding chocolate leaves Logan hideously scarred and burned. Yet Logan's appearances do not match his inner self: he is gentle, kind, patient, and his behavior is nothing like the way he looks. Logan determines to win the contest to prove he can be a candymaker.

Events of the past year have a strong hold on Miles. Miles believes he witnessed the drowning of a young girl a year before the events of the novel unfold. It shakes him to his core. He withdraws into himself, isolating himself, taking comfort and solace in reading and learning, and refusing to go back out into the world. Miles enters the contest as a way to honor the memory of the girl, and to pay respect to the past by creating a candy that will serve as a kind of offering to the girl.

Daisy's own past is one of spy work and constant traveling. She has never really had a chance to be a child, and laments that her childhood is rapidly slipping by. It is a job for a new client that puts Daisy into the contest, not a love of candy. Daisy's work as a spy means that she will have to try to steal the secret ingredient for the client. Nevertheless, Daisy's moral awakening about her past and about the nature of her work ultimately paved the way for her character to turn against the client in the present.

Philip's past is one of heartache and poor role models. Philip's mother has been dead for many years, but Philip still misses her terribly. He emulates her by playing the violin. Philip is also haunted by the fact that he was banned from the Life is Sweet factory for the truck incident – and as a result, he seeks revenge against Logan by winning the candy competition. However, the past in the truth that his father has been plotting to take over the Life is Sweet factory for seven years, in conjunction with his mother's gentle and honest nature, compel Philip not only to befriend Logan, but to turn against his father's plans in defense of Logan's family's company.

Friendship

Friendship is an important theme in the novel "The Candymakers" by Wendy Mass. Friendship is definitive to the plot and to Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip as they move from being contestants in a competition to friends determined to save a candy company.

When the novel begins, Logan has many friends, but none his own age. Horribly disfigured by a workplace accident, Logan has been homeschooled and brought up in the factory. All of his friends are decades older. Though Logan loves and appreciates these friends, he longs for some his own age. The contest gives him just such an opportunity for making friends.



Friendship is the last thing on the minds of Daisy, Miles, and Philip, however. All three have different motives coming to the contest. Daisy is under contract to steal the secret ingredient; Miles wants to honor a drowned girl; and Philip wants revenge. However, within hours, Miles and Logan have become friends based on enjoying their time with one another, and because they recognize a sadness in one another that gives them a common ground to stand on.

Daisy soon after befriends them as well, stunned to discover such genuine people and thrilled to have the chance to be a real kid for a little while. When Philip discovers the truth of his father's plot, he turns against his father and the groundwork for friendship between Philip and the other is laid. Indeed, the four kids – Logan, Miles, Daisy, and Philip – become good friends as they unite to save the Life is Sweet factory. They work together to perfect Philip's candy, and win the contest.

After the contest, the friendship between the four only grows stronger. Rather than going their own way after the contest ends, they remain together to enjoy their friendship. Daisy will be taking time off from being a spy, while Miles will be living for the future. Philip has softened up considerably, and is no longer antagonistic toward the others. Logan himself is simply thrilled to be accepted among friends who judge him for who he is as a person, rather than what he looks like.

Styles

Point of View

Wendy Mass tells her novel “The Candymakers” in the third-person limited-omniscient narrative mode. The novel follows the adventures of Logan, Daisy, Miles, and Philip as they attempt to craft the perfect new candy and save the Life is Sweet factory. Each part of the novel is devoted primarily to one of the characters, each with his or her own distinct life, motivations, and plans. The third-person narrator acts as a unifying voice bridging the gaps between these distinct characters, and forming a solid storyline out of four different lives and motives. The limited-omniscient aspect of the narrative provides for a sense of mystery and suspense as the novel unfolds, as the reader and Logan attempt to determine just who is trying to steal the secret ingredient, and why.

Language and Meaning

Wendy Mass tells her novel “The Candymakers” in language that is simple and straightforward. This is done for at least two reasons. First, the novel’s primary characters are all either twelve or thirteen. The language employed in the novel reflects their age, level of maturity, and level of education. This adds a sense of realism and believability to their characterization. Secondly, the simple and straightforward language is reflective of the novel’s target audience: young adults. The language employed is reflective of this target audience in terms of their age and level of education, making it easily readable and accessible to them.

Structure

Wendy Mass divides her novel “The Candymakers” into five major parts, numbered 1 through 5 and bearing the name of one of the four main characters –Logan (Part 1 and Part 5), Miles (Part 2), Daisy (Part 3), and Philip (Part 4). The narration in each part specifically focuses on the character named. Each successive part fills in more details unknown in previous parts until the entire story is completed by the end of Part 5. It is essentially the same story being retold, but with greater details sketched in. Each part is further subdivided into numbered chapters, which comprise specific sets of events or sequences of action that take place in the novel. For example, Part 4, Chapter 1 deals largely with Philip’s motivations for entering the contest and seeking revenge on Logan.



Quotes

To make the whole world smile!

-- Logan (Part 1, Chapter 1 paragraph 8)

Importance: When the novel begins, the reader learns the purpose of Logan and the candy company his father owns and operates. They are dedicated to providing delicious candy that will make the world smile. To do so requires great skill and great love for the craft of candymaking, something which Logan will truly come to understand by the end of the novel.

But if he were to somehow win this contest, as his father and grandfather had when they were his age, he would not only prove to the candymaking community that he had what it took to make great candy, he would prove it to his parents and to himself.

-- Narrator (Part 1, Chapter 1 paragraph 38)

Importance: Logan, despite being raised in a candymaking environment, has not been able to get the hang of candymaking just yet. He longs to win the contest in order to prove himself and gain prestige. However, as Logan later realizes, this is the wrong reason to have entered the contest. He knows he should have entered the contest out of love for candymaking, not desire for prestige or to live up to the record of his father and grandfather.

I don't like candy. It rots your teeth.

-- Philip (Part 1, Chapter 3 paragraph 16)

Importance: Here, Philip stuns Logan and the others by announcing his hatred of candy. Logan and the others cannot understand why someone who hates candy would enter a candymaking contest. As the reader later learns, this is partially true, but partially a cover. Since being supposedly banned from the factory, candy has never tasted the same to Philip again, so he doesn't like it. At the same time, the explanation acts as a cover as Philip aspires to win the contest purely out of hatred for Logan due to the toy truck incident.

Things change when they're ready to change. People change when they're ready, too. You can never predict these things.

-- Henry (Part 1, Chapter 5 paragraph 9)

Importance: Speaking to Henry about butterflies and change, Henry speaks of an inner beauty and things changing when they are meant to. This includes Logan. At the moment, Logan is like a caterpillar, unsure of his future in candymaking. With time and patience, Logan will be like a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly, ultimately coming into his own as a candymaker. But it will happen when it happens, not when it is forced.

Not letting yourself live your life isn't going to change anything. You know that by now.

-- Mr. O'Leary (Part 2, Chapter 1 paragraph 22)



Importance: Haunted by the drowning death of the girl at Verona Lake, Miles has withdrawn into himself. He now rarely goes out, and spends most of his time reading and dwelling on the past. His father gently reminds him that not living will not change the past, and that Miles must once again embrace the present and the future. Only through his friendship with Logan, Daisy, and Philip will Miles finally come to do so.

She had been taught not to question the motives of a the client. After all, every story had two sides. Who was she to decide right from wrong?

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 2 paragraph 74)

Importance: Daisy, a spy, is sent to steal the secret ingredient on the instruction of a client. Daisy has been reared not to question motives or morals, but in the present time, she is having a hard time not doing so. She tries to remind herself that Life is Sweet is just a job, but she cannot do so after realizing just how hurt Logan and the others will be if the job is carried out.

Philip's dad always said people didn't change, they just got taller. He doubted that a few scars had changed Logan.

-- Narrator (Part 4, Chapter 2 paragraph 4)

Importance: Philip goes into the contest with revenge on his mind. He has for years figured Logan was a mean kid, but begins to wonder if perhaps Logan has changed. Philip reminds himself that people rarely change, as his father says. Logan, Philip figures, can be no different – yet Philip will be proved totally wrong about everything by the end of the novel.

In the beginning it was just about making Logan lose, and now it was about saving the factory.

-- Narrator (Part 4, Chapter 5 paragraph 97)

Importance: Philip has a moral awakening toward the end of the novel. He has come to oppose his father's plans to underhandedly take over Life is Sweet. Philip now realizes he will be critical in helping to stop his father's plans. Philip's motivation and purpose has completely changed since the beginning of the novel.

Logan was having trouble sorting through what they'd just overheard. It sounded as if Philip was trying to steal the Candymaker's secret ingredient. Or was it Daisy?

-- Narrator (Part 5, Chapter 1 paragraph 2)

Importance: Logan, overhearing Daisy and Philip discuss the secret ingredient, has trouble trying to figure out what is going on. As he comes to learn, Daisy and Philip are both trying to steal the secret ingredient, but for different reasons than actually stealing it. Philip wants to prevent it from being stolen, while Daisy wants to sabotage the ingredient to cause it to backfire on the thieves.



The thing about leaving something behind for the very last time is that you rarely realize you're doing it.

-- Narrator (Part 5, Chapter 5 paragraph 97)

Importance: As Logan and his friends prepare for the contest, he recognizes that things will never be the same, and that he is closing a door on an old part of his life. He now has friends, he now has an opportunity to save his family's factory, and he now knows he has the potential to be an excellent candymaker. Logan's departure from the past is more happy than sad.

But I did win, Dad. Trust me, we all won as soon as the Harmonicandy played its first note.

-- Narrator (Part 5, Chapter 8 paragraph 6)

Importance: Logan's father attempts to comfort Logan when Logan loses the contest – but Logan assures him they really did all win. While Logan does not divulge the full details of the plot just yet, he reassures his father that everything is alright. Not only has the factory been saved, but the company now has four potential candymakers in Logan, Miles, Philip, and Daisy, and Miles, Philip, Daisy, and Logan have friends in each other.

That's our secret ingredient. We put a little of ourselves into our chocolate.

-- Richard Sweet (Part 5, Chapter 9 paragraph 7)

Importance: Here, Logan's father explains the secret ingredient to each of the contestants gathered before him. There is no physical ingredient so to speak, but the love and passion a candymaker puts into his product. The love and passion one puts into a project of any kind will determine how it comes out.