

Chapter 1

Here Comes Charlie



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These two very old people are the father and mother of Mr Bucket. Their names are Grandpa Joe and Grandma Josephine.



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And these two very old people are the father and mother of Mrs Bucket. Their names are Grandpa George and Grandma Georgina.



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This is Mr Bucket. This is Mrs Bucket.

Mr and Mrs Bucket have a small boy whose name is Charlie Bucket.



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This is Charlie.

How d'you do? And how d'you do? And how d'you do again? He is pleased to meet you.

The whole of this family - the six grown-ups (count them) and little Charlie Bucket - live together in a small wooden house on the edge of a great town.



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The house wasn't nearly large enough for so many people, and life was extremely uncomfortable for them all. There were only two rooms in the place altogether, and there was only one bed. The bed was given to the four old grandparents because they were so old and tired. They were so tired, they never got out of it.

Grandpa Joe and Grandma Josephine on this side, Grandpa George and Grandma Georgina on this side.

Mr and Mrs Bucket and little Charlie Bucket slept in the other room, upon mattresses on the floor.

In the summertime, this wasn't too bad, but in the winter, freezing cold draughts blew across the floor all night long, and it was awful.

There wasn't any question of them being able to buy a better house - or even one more bed to sleep in. They were far too poor for that.

Mr Bucket was the only person in the family with a job. He worked in a toothpaste factory, where he sat all day long at a bench and screwed the little caps on to the tops of the tubes of toothpaste after the tubes had been filled. But a toothpaste cap-screwdriver is never paid very much money, and poor Mr Bucket, however hard he worked, and however fast he screwed on the caps, was never able to make enough to buy one half of the things that so large a family needed. There wasn't even enough money to buy proper food for them all. The only meals they could afford were bread and margarine for breakfast, boiled potatoes and cabbage for lunch, and cabbage soup for supper. Sundays were a bit better. They all looked forward to Sundays because then, although they had exactly the same, everyone was allowed a second helping.

The Buckets, of course, didn't starve, but every one of them - the two old grandfathers, the two old grandmothers, Charlie's father, Charlie's mother, and especially little Charlie himself - went about from morning till night with a horrible empty feeling in their tummies.

Charlie felt it worst of all. And although his father and mother often went without their own share of lunch or supper so that they could give it to him, it still wasn't nearly enough for a growing boy. He desperately wanted something more filling and satisfying than cabbage and cabbage soup. The one thing he longed for more than anything else was ... CHOCOLATE.

1. Are the Bucket family wealthy or poor? Find a quotation to prove your answer.
2. What is a draught of wind?
3. How many people share the only bed in the house? Who sleeps in it?
4. What do the Bucket family always look forward to and why?
5. What does Charlie desperately want?
6. Summarise the story so far.

Extension - Write a paragraph pretending you are Roald Dahl and describe the house the family live in. Use fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and prepositions. Underline all of them or highlight them in a colour.