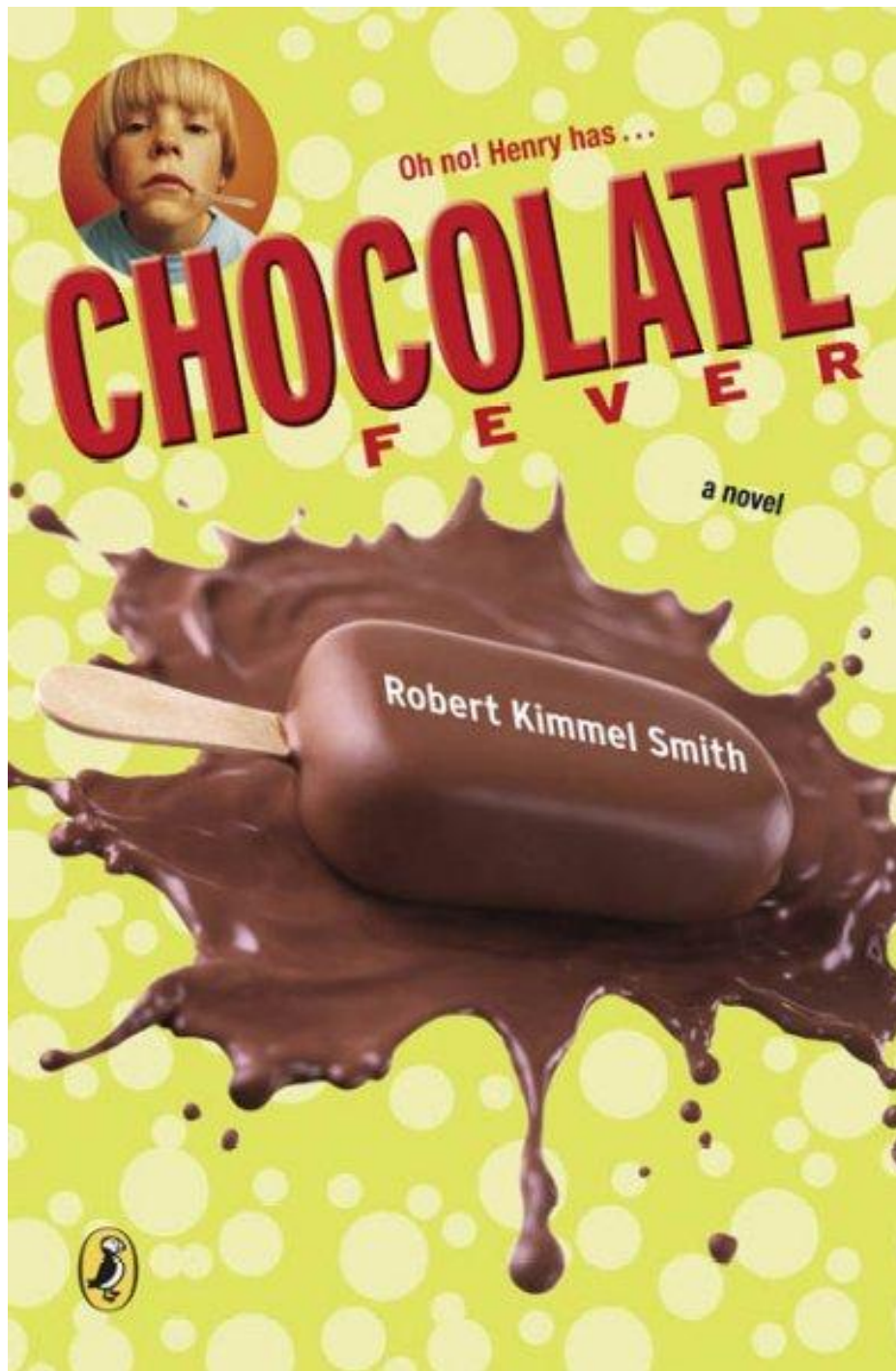


About the book...



Henry Green is a boy who loves chocolate. He likes it bitter, sweet, dark, light, and daily; for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks; in cakes, candy bars, milk, and every other form you can possibly imagine. Henry probably loves chocolate more than any boy in the history of the world. One day – it starts off like any other day – Henry finds that strange things are happening to him. First he makes medical history with the only case of Chocolate Fever ever. Then he finds himself caught up in a wild and hilarious chase, climaxed by a very unusual hijacking!

-Publisher Marketing

About the Author...



Robert Kimmel Smith began dreaming of becoming a writer at the age of eight, when he spent three months in bed reading while recovering from rheumatic fever. He enrolled in Brooklyn College in 1947, and served in the U.S. Army, in Germany, from 1951-1953. In 1954 he married Claire Medney, his editor and literary agent. They have two children: Heidi (1962) and Roger (1967). After writing advertising copy from 1957 to 1969, Robert Kimmel Smith became a full-time writer in 1970.

For more about the author visit:

<http://www.robertkimmelsmith.com/>

Writings

- [*Bobby Baseball*](#), Delacorte Press (New York), 1989.
- [*The War with Grandpa*](#), Delacorte Press (New York), 1984.
- [*The Squeaky Wheel*](#), Delacorte Press, (New York), 1990.

Reviews

School Library Journal

Gr 2-6. Chocolate lovers will identify with Henry Green who eats chocolate wherever and however he wants. What a shock when he breaks out in a rash of brown spots that smell like chocolate! After running away from the doctor at the hospital, Henry stands up to a gang of boys, hitches a ride with a truck driver, and is hijacked along with him. Embedded in this tale are lessons in courage, caring, moderation, and prejudice.

Kirkus Reviews

Henry Green's insatiable appetite for chocolate induces a raging case of chocolate fever (big brown spots all over) and a correspondingly spotty fantasy in which he runs away from the hospital, escapes from a group of bullies by playing on their fears of contagion, hitches a ride with a sympathetic truck driver (being black he knows what it is to be stared at) and foils a hijacking. This last earns him an introduction to Alfred "Sugar" Cane the candy manufacturer (who suffered from chocolate fever himself); Cane dispenses an antidote (vanilla pills) and advice ("We can't have everything we want every time we want it")

Discussion Questions

(http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/collateral_resources/pdf//c//clubs_pdfs_new_chocolatefever_q.pdf)

1. Why does Henry tell the gang of boys in the schoolyard that chocolate fever is “most horrible and catching” and that they could die if they caught it too?
2. Describe how the dogs’ jumping and licking Henry allow Mac to foil and capture the hijackers.
3. Why do you think Henry feels so comforted by Nurse Molly Farthing?
4. Examine the reasons Henry runs away from Dr. Fargo’s office. What do you think he was afraid of?
5. Have you ever been afraid of a doctor’s, nurse’s or dentist’s office? If so, describe why you were frightened and what you did to get over your fear. If not, explain how it is you’ve been so brave!
6. Even though Henry has ugly brown spots all over his face, Mac treats him well. Why? What is it that Mac’s experienced in his life that helps him understand what it’s like to be “unique”?

7. Just as Henry and Mac are about to pull over to call Henry's parents, Mac's truck gets hijacked. But modify that scene in the book and describe what might have happened if they had actually called. How might Henry's parents have reacted? Would they be appreciative of what Mac had done?

8. Explain what Mac means when he tells Henry "A good child respects his parents...A good child don't cause his parents heartache or grief." What is your definition of "respect," and why, in your experience, is it important not to cause your parents "heartache or grief"?

9. Compare the different ways all the adults in the book react to Henry's chocolate fever. Have you ever been sick and had an adult react hysterically? Explain why such behavior might have only made you more upset or afraid.

10. Perhaps you think of Mac as the hero of the book and the hijackers as the villains. But try and think of some of the characters that don't fall easily into one category or the other, such as Dr. Fargo or Mrs. Kimmelfarber. These characters obviously care about Henry but perhaps have trouble showing it. Describe what you think their motivations are for the way they treat Henry and how you feel about these characters.

11. *Chocolate Fever* is a work of fiction, in reality, there's no such thing as chocolate fever. But describe the consequences of eating too many sweets. And how does a person *really* get freckles?

12. What do you think Robert Kimmel Smith wants us to learn from his imaginative story about Henry? What kind of lesson or message did you get from the book?

Activities

List all the sweets Henry eats on the Friday morning he gets chocolate fever.

Have you ever had too much of a good thing, a food that you once loved but because you ate it too much it now gives you the willies just to look at it? If so, write a little story about how that happened. If not, write an imaginative tale about what might happen if you ate too much of that food.

Take a poll of people's favorite foods – your friends, your parents, your teacher. Keep track of how many of those items are junk foods! But also

pay attention to foods you've never tasted or maybe even heard of. What do some of the foods have in common? Are they salty foods, sweet foods? Are they the kinds of foods you eat for special occasions, like roast turkey on Thanksgiving, or ice cream sandwiches you eat on a hot summer day? Now choose one of those items and promise yourself to try it. Ask your parents if they'll buy this food from the supermarket, cook it for dinner, or take you out to try it at a restaurant. Be creative.

Read-Alikes

Roald Dahl, [*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*](#)
(1964)

Charlie Bucket lives with his parents and four grandparents in abject poverty. Poor Charlie is hungry all the time, a hunger that is made more intense by the constant smell of chocolate in the air from his town's world-famous chocolate factory. When the factory's eccentric owner, Mr. Willy Wonka, runs a contest, Charlie wins a dream come true: a tour of the fantastic factory. Charlie and Grandpa Joe join four ill-behaved children and their parents on a magical tour led by the legendary Willy Wonka himself.

Patrick Skene Catling, [*The Chocolate Touch*](#) (1952)

It all started when John found the funny old coin. The man in the candy store was more than happy to trade a box of chocolate for it. John loved chocolate more than anything, at least he thought so at the beginning of this story.

Wendy Mass, [*The Candymakers*](#) (2010)

Four children have been chosen to compete in a national competition to find the tastiest confection in the country. Who will invent a candy more delicious than the Oozing Crunchorama or the Neon Lightning Chew? Logan, the Candymaker's son, who can detect the color of chocolate by touch alone? Miles, the boy who is allergic to merry-go-rounds and the color pink? Daisy, the cheerful girl who can lift a fifty-pound lump of taffy like it's a feather? Or Philip, the suit-and-tie wearing boy who's always scribbling in a secret notebook? This sweet, charming, and cleverly crafted story, told from each contestant's perspective, is filled with mystery, friendship, and juicy revelations.



Ann Arbor District Library