

Sample Lesson #1

The Magic Candy

Part 1: Do Not Touch

“Do not touch!” His mother said, placing yet another mysterious container on the crowded counter as she breezed through the kitchen and headed for the door. “I’ve been in the lab all night, and now I’ve got a meeting. Don’t make your sister late for the bus,” she added, phone in hand and exiting into the garage.



Ordinarily, Chase would not be inclined to snoop, but his curiosity reared when adults said things like, “Do not touch.” His mom was a confectioner who did research and developed products for international markets, and Chase knew perfectly well that if there were any new concoction in the box, it would have to be tested extensively before being offered to a vendor. He would never think of eating the stuff himself. Anyway, the package probably held pomegranate-flavored breath mints, or guacamole gum, or some other quirky candy. Phooey!

Even so, Chase peered inside the box, and shook its contents—five small bundles—onto the countertop. Each wrapped in shimmering cellophane, there was a pink, a red, a purple, a green, and a black one. He stared, squinting, inspecting the candies directly.

Suddenly, Kara, the whirlwind, made her tumultuous entrance.

“Let’s go! You know I hate running for the bus; it messes up my hair.” Kara ran her fingers through her long brown hair and gave her head a shake. Her silky straight tresses fell perfectly, brushing past her shoulders just the way she liked.

Chase grunted, simultaneously rolling his eyes, then grabbed his gear and headed for the back door. Kara followed behind, a satisfied grin lighting up her face. As she passed the granite countertop, she spied five vibrantly-wrapped confections. Sweets! She gathered them up and jammed the whole fistful into her pocket.

At school, Kara found Jill and Hannah, her two best friends, waiting for her.

“Hey, what’re we doing in PE today? I do NOT want to ruin my hair!” Kara shook her head once again, letting her satin locks fall flawlessly into place.

“Ugh, we’re starting basketball—my biggest nightmare,” whined Hannah, “I’m so bad; I’ve never even made a basket, ever, in my whole life. It’s embarrassing!”

“I get it,” responded Jill, “today’s my audition for show choir. I have a new dance number, and I spent my whole weekend practicing, but I’m still all feet.”

“You mean two left feet,” laughed Kara. “Here, have one of these.” She dug into her pocket and produced the wrapped confections. Kara’s friends glanced around quickly and then gazed at the little treats, which shimmered in their dramatic wrappings under the fluorescent glow of the hallway lights. The girls closed in on Kara, to get a better look at their choices. Jill snatched the purple and Hannah grabbed the pink. Just then, a warning bell rang, and the girls headed to their first class.

- RL.6.1 1. Why does Chase open the box and empty out its contents?
- A) He wants to help his mother with a project she is working on.
 - B) He wants to find out what is inside the box.
 - C) He knows doing this will get his sister into trouble.
 - D) all of these
- RL.6.1 2. In the text, underline evidence that supports your answer to item 1.
- RL.6.2 3. This passage is part one of four parts. From details in the plot so far, you can tell the story will be mostly about _____.
- A) Kara and her three friends
 - B) a mother who works at research & development
 - C) what Chase does before and after school
 - D) physical education, music, and other classes
- RL.6.4 4. What is the connotation of the word *concoction* as it is used in the text?
- A) something delicious
 - B) a tall tale
 - C) laboratory work
 - D) a strange mixture
- RL.6.4 5. In the text, find a word that means about the same as the words listed below. Write the word on the line.
- sweets candies _____
- RL.6.5 6. What is the significance of the sentence shown below? Explain how it contributes to the story so far.
- Anyway, the package probably held pomegranate-flavored breath mints, or guacamole gum, or some other quirky candy.
- _____
- _____
- RL.6.6 7. Use evidence from the text to explain how Chase feels about his sister.
- _____
- _____