



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Chocolate War

Robert Cormier



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

Name _____

Directions: In a democracy, an individual sometimes submits to the decisions made by the majority, whether that individual agrees with the decision or not. Other times, an individual insists on an opinion or an action of which the majority disapproves. Listed below are some examples of situations in which an individual might disagree with what the majority decides. On the blank in front of each put an "M" if you think the majority should decide what to do and the individual should accept that decision. Put an "I" if you think the individual should continue to oppose the group decision.

- _____ 1. The majority of the senior class decides to sell magazines as a fund raiser, but some individuals dissent. Those who did not vote for selling magazines feel that they should not be pressured to sell the magazines.
- _____ 2. The senior class has some money left over after paying for the class gift to the school. A majority votes for donating the money to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, but some individuals feel that they should get their fraction of the money to spend as they please.
- _____ 3. A car containing a group of friends hits and kills a dog and the driver keeps on going. Most of the friends agree it is better to say nothing about the incident because the driver was speeding and might get into trouble, but one person wants to notify the dog's owner.
- _____ 4. Several students know who loosened the screws in the teacher's desk as a prank but only one feels that the teacher should be told who did it.
- _____ 5. A car driven by four teens hits a Jeep containing five other teens and one of the teens in the Jeep is killed. Three friends of the dead boy tell police that the car rammed the Jeep deliberately following an argument between the two groups. Only the fourth friend wants to tell police the full story: that the five friends in the Jeep started the fight.
- _____ 6. A house burns down and the owner collects a hefty amount of insurance for it. Everyone in the family knows that the owner has been desperately worried about how to pay his terminally-ill wife's medical bills. All suspect that he set the fire, but only one feels that the authorities should be notified about their suspicions.

Name _____

Directions: Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your novel test.

* = thought question, no right or wrong answer

** = prediction, no right or wrong answer

Chapters 1-4

1. Why is Jerry on the athletic field at the opening of the story?
2. "...he had been Peter a thousand times and a thousand cocks had crowed in his lifetime." (page 8) What is the narrator saying about Jerry?
3. What is Obie's opinion of Archie?
4. What information has Obie recorded in his notebook about Jerry?
5. What does the young man with the moustache say to Jerry?
6. Why does Brother Leon invite Archie into his office?
- * 7. Why do you think Jerry wants to be on the team after he has been hurt on the field and insulted by the coach?
- **8. What do you think Archie's "assignments" are? How will the Vigils help boost candy sales?

Chapters 5-8

1. What assignment does Archie give Goober?
2. How does Brother Leon pick on Bailey?
3. Why does Brother Leon tell his students that they turned the classroom into Nazi Germany?
4. What is Emile Janza doing to Carlson's car?
5. What truths did Janza discover about people when he was in the fourth grade?
6. Why do the masked boys join Goober?
- * 7. Why do you think Archie enjoys being the Assigner? Why does he enjoy humiliating people when someone else—like Jerry—would not?
- **8. What will happen when the next class is held in Room 19 (where screws were loosened)?

Name _____

Directions: You judge what a character is like in much the same way you judge what a person in real life is like—by how he looks and acts, by what he says, by what he seems to think and feel, and by how others treat him. As you read the story, jot down phrases and page references in the boxes below. For each group of details, write a generalization about Jerry. Then summarize your generalizations in one or two sentences.

JERRY'S ACTIONS ----- My generalization:	J E R R Y	JERRY'S THOUGHTS ----- My generalization:
STATEMENTS MADE BY JERRY ----- My generalization:		OTHERS DO TO JERRY... ----- My generalization:
OTHERS SAY TO JERRY... ----- My generalization:		OTHERS SAY ABOUT JERRY... ----- My generalization:

Name _____

Directions: Two steps in problem solving are:

- (a) brainstorming possible solutions and
- (b) measuring each against specific criteria.

When other students start harassing Jerry, he must decide what to do—if anything. What are his choices? Help him decide what to do by

- a) reading his choices in the chart below and adding any other possible choices you can think of,
- b) listing criteria (“yardstick” questions used to measure how a particular decision “measures up”), and
- c) scoring each decision 1=yes, 2=maybe, or 3=no.

The chart has been started for you.

Possible Choices ↓	Criteria:			
	Will this end the harassment?	Will this keep my father from worrying?	Will I keep my self-respect?	Will this keep me from getting hurt?
1. do nothing				
2. write a letter of complaint to the faculty				
3. ask my father for advice				
4. make my own prank phone calls				
5.				
6.				