

MRS. BUCKET

You couldn't stand up anywhere, Joe. You've been stuck up in that bed for forty years.

GRANDPA JOE

I'm not stuck. I am merely awaiting my call to arms. (*salutes*)

MRS. BUCKET

Well, at least your arms work, I suppose. So you can use them to peel the rotten leaves off of that cabbage for me.

She chucks him the cabbage.

Charlie, wake up the others. It's time to eat.

Charlie rings the dinner bell. Josephine & Georgina are shaken awake by the noise.

JOSEPHINE & GEORGINA

Aaaah!

CHARLIE

Dinner!

JOSEPHINE & GEORGINA

(happy, realising)

Oh. Lovely.

George wakes up.

GEORGE

Oh God, are we still here?

CHARLIE

Put your bibs on everyone. It's dinner time.

As he passes out the bibs...

Grandpa Joe. Grandma Josephine. Grandma Georgina. Grandpa George.

JOSEPHINE

What is for dinner tonight, my dear?

MRS. BUCKET

Cabbage surprise.

JOSEPHINE

Didn't we have that last night?

GRANDPA JOE, MRS. BUCKET, CHARLIE & GEORGE

That's the surprise!

GEORGINA

I don't mind cabbage, but you know it makes me gassy.

GEORGE

Somebody kill me.

MRS. BUCKET

Pass the soup Charlie.

CHARLIE

(Passing soup to Georgina)

Here you are.

The wind blows through the rickety shack. Mrs. Bucket shivers.

GEORGINA

It's cold.

JOSEPHINE

Winter's coming.

MRS. BUCKET

I'll light the stove.

GEORGE

There's no wood.

MRS. BUCKET

I found an old chair leg on the garbage dump.

GRANDPA JOE

A chair leg. See, we'll be warm as toast.

MRS. BUCKET

For tonight at least.

She puts the chair leg on the fire. The grandparents sigh.

Oh Charlie—look what else I found when I was down at the dump—

She shows him.

CHARLIE

A new notebook!

MRS. BUCKET

Some water damage, but look, all blank pages.

CHARLIE

Perfect for inventing chocolate!!

MRS. BUCKET

Perfect for homework.

CHARLIE

Aww!

MRS. BUCKET

Inventing candy's fun, Charlie, but you need to earn a living. A person can't eat daydreams, you know.

CHARLIE

I know.

MRS. BUCKET

I'll check your answers when you're done.

Charlie chews his pencil. Agonized.

CHARLIE

If five boys have x bars of chocolate and each bar has y squares and x is two times y , then how many squares of chocolate does each boy have? Oh I can't! Wait, I've got a better idea.

He begins to write.

#4 - A Letter From Charlie Bucket

CHARLIE

Dear Mr. Wonka...

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE A BUSY MAN
YOU MUST HAVE LOTS OF MAIL TO READ
I'M WRITING FOR MY FAM'LY
CAUSE THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL THAT I NEED

THE TIME YOU TAKE TO READ THIS LETTER
WILL BE TIME WELL SPENT
BECAUSE I'VE MADE A LIST OF THINGS
YOU MIGHT WANT TO INVENT

MRS. BUCKET

HOW'S YOUR HOMEWORK?

CHARLIE

ALMOST DONE

MRS. BUCKET

THAT'S MY CHARLIE, THAT'S MY SON

CHARLIE

FOR MOM, WHO'S ALWAYS ON HER FEET
YOU MIGHT PLEASE GRANT ME THIS ONE WISH
TO KEEP HER SHOES ATTACHED TO HER
SOME LACES MADE OF LIQUORICE

FOR JOSEPHINE I HAVE DRAWN A RECIPE BENEATH
FOR MOLARS MADE OF MARZIPAN
WHEN SHE CAN'T FIND HER TEETH

MRS. BUCKET

HAVE YOU SCRUBBED UP?

CHARLIE

YES, I DID

MRS. BUCKET

THAT'S MY CHARLIE, THAT'S MY KID...

Charlie... ?