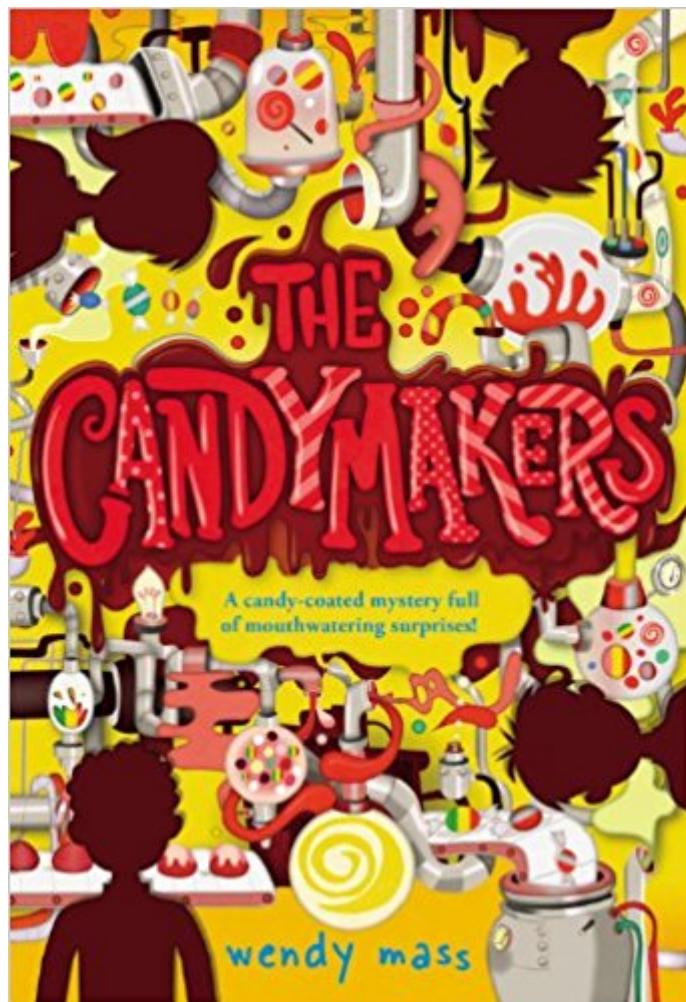


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# The Candymakers



## **Synopsis**

In the town of Spring Haven, four children have been selected to compete in the national candymaking contest of a lifetime. Who will make a candy more delicious than the Oozing Crunchorama or the Neon Yellow Lightning Chew? Logan, the candymaker's son, who can detect the color of chocolate by feel alone? Miles, the boy allergic to rowboats and the color pink? Daisy, the cheerful girl who can lift a fifty-pound lump of taffy as if it were a feather? 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.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 3, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316002593

ISBN-13: 978-0316002592

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 477 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,829 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives #130 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women #429 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 4-8 "Children running amok in a candy factory, immortalized by Roald Dahl, is one story line that bears repeating. At the Life Is Sweet factory, four 12-year-olds gather to create new goodies for the annual Confectionery Association Conference. Logan, the Candymaker's son, dreams of winning his family's respect. Miles's parents hope the experience will help him forget a tragic accident he couldn't prevent. Daisy is fascinated by the factory, but for what reason? And Philip scribbles in his secret notebook, determined to win at all costs. When the factory's secret ingredient is stolen, the children find a common purpose: to foil the plot by creating the best candy

ever. The tidy conclusion has a few contrivances, but none that will bother children. Mass has crafted a solid mystery dipped in sweet candy-making details. Character development moves a lengthy story forward in smooth increments. As each child's story emerges, the mystery becomes one bit clearer, making this a real page-turner. The characters are intricate, flawed heroes with whom readers will identify. The book's subtle message of teamwork over greed and growth through friendship will resonate with readers and educators alike. A magical setting filled with conveyor belts, chocolate jungles, and beehives makes it clear what the youngsters are attempting to save. Give this mouthwatering confection to children who like Trenton Stewart's *The Mysterious Benedict Society* (Little, Brown, 2007) and other quirky mysteries. --Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT

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It starts with unmistakable echoes of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964) and eventually features a musical candy a la *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* --,cs "Toot Sweets," but Mass' latest novel ends up being a treat all its own. Four 12-year-olds gather at a candy factory to participate in the local segment of a nationwide contest to create a new and delectable piece of candy. One contestant is the only child of the factory's owner, known here as the Candymaker. Another boy is obsessed with allergies and the afterlife, while the third boy is unfriendly and intent on winning. The lone girl, Daisy, seems to be sweetness itself but displays great physical strength as well as odd behavior. Mass skillfully presents the two and a half days of the kids' apprenticeship from the perspective of each of the four contestants. At over four hundred pages, this is not a lightning-fast read, but it reveals a multitude of mysteries, explaining all the clues about misunderstandings, spies, and sabotage that Mass has dropped along the way. Attentive, candy-loving readers will be richly rewarded. Grades 4-6. --Abby Nolan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I used this book in my class for grades 5-7. When they first received it they looked terrified at how thick it was! It was our third book and by far the thickest book we have read so far. But, those fearful glances faded fast. They enthusiastically read the book and got more and more excited as it went. Along with the normal literature guidelines, go beyond and bring the book to life by doing activities such as creating your own advertisements for your made up candy, doing a flavor taste test while learning about the different taste buds you have, and making candy in class!

Usually books are written from one perspective, and you only know one person's thoughts and feelings. But in this book, you can know everyone's thoughts. It is surprising when you only read one person's thoughts, some people is really annoying, but when you read that person's thoughts, they have a reason why they act like that. This book is very enjoyable, especially the details. It is unbelievable how at first, everyone seems not to know each other, but it all connects together. There are four children, Logan, Miles, Daisy and Philip. They entered a candy making contest, where they have to each make a new type of candy in a candy factory named Life Is Sweet. There is also 28 other contestants at other candy factories. They entered the contest for different reasons, just to win, revenge, and even trying to steal a secret candy ingredient. But of course, they found out and listened to everyone's reasons. In the end, they all worked on Philip's candy because they need to protect the factory. I really suggest this book, I hope this helped you.

I adore Wendy Mass's writing. and this book was just wonderful and fun! You will love every character you encounter by the end, but some, like Phillip, take a while to warm up to. Each child has a huge weight on their shoulders, but they are surrounded by friends and love and they realize that more and more as the story progresses. Writing from each of the four main character's viewpoints was inventive and a wonderful way to supply details. Secret codes, fun candy, chocolate pizza, super sleuthy electronics, and a HORSE. What is not to love!

This review was written by my 3rd and 4th grade sons and was first posted on Kids Corner at Kindle Nation Daily: The Candymakers by Wendy Mass is about four kids named Logan, Philip, Daisy and Miles who are in a candy making competition. Each of the contestants is trying to win the competition by making the world's best new candy. We learned a ton about the process of making candy, but the best thing about this book was that it is actually a mystery. The cool thing is every section of the book is written from a different kids' point of view. It was interesting to see how different kids in the book viewed the same exact situation and how the information they gave us helped us with clues (or confused us more) about the mystery. We really liked this book. It was a long book but it was totally totally awesome. The mystery couldn't have been told from everyone's point of view if the book was any shorter. We actually wished it would have been longer because we didn't want it to end! This book taught us that we don't really know what other people are thinking or why they are doing what they are doing and we have to be careful we don't assume things. We think there should be a sequel to this book!!

Where do I begin? Well, I guess to start, Wendy Mass is really an author who writes books you can't judge by their covers. Her books look like to inexperienced readers they would be for smallish children, but when you read them, I don't know about the rest of you, but I have this deep level of understanding and peace with her books. Like Every Soul A Star. I have a beautiful calm come over me when I read books, but especially Wendy Mass's books. She has a way of writing that pulls you into the story and when you stop reading, you feel like to get angry would be tiresome. I always read her books when I'm angry about something; when I'm done reading it, I remember my anger and laugh at it. Her books feel so real to me, and there aren't many books like that anymore. The Candymakers gave me that same feeling, less so than Every Soul A Star but still there. As I write this, I haven't finished it, but (SPOILER!) It never said a word about Logan's scars in his part, so I was a bit surprised and curious when I got to Miles's part and read about them. Miles is what I call a Life-Alike--it was weird in a cool way how much like me he was. I saw someone once who I figured died later, but that's a long story and I don't want to get into it. But it haunted me just like it haunted Miles. We both like stories of the afterlife, we both like talking backwards. Kind of cool. When I got to the part where it said Daisy was a spy, well, let's just say that Daisy is a REALLY good spy, because I never, in a thousand years, would have guessed. I haven't gotten to Philip yet, but I'm sure he'll be just as good as the others. Anyway, if you look at this book and consider it, then listen to your conscience and READ IT!

My 9 year old daughter LOVED this book. She found it to be a very exciting, edge of your seat, mysterious story. She can't wait for book 2!

My 4th & 5th grade children were assigned this book for a book club they attend at school. As a helper for the club, I read it with them. All three of us reveled in the sensory descriptions of the book. We could smell and taste all of the wonderful (and not so wonderful!) creations by the would-be candymakers. The use of revolving points of view added to the mystery behind the motives of the characters and heightened the surprise and delight upon discovering the truth behind them all. I even found myself tearing up at the conclusion. This is definitely a sweet read!

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