

Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Scientific Method, Trial and Error, Perseverance

Grade Level: K to 2nd grade

Book Brief: The Fleer Corporation is trying to create a new kind of gum, but they aren't having much luck. Can a man

who knows nothing about gum save the day?

Author and Illustrator: Meghan McCarthy

Content Connections: Science, Biography



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students predict what the story will be about based on the title and cover illustration. Do

they think this book will be fiction or nonfiction?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk before reading and ask what students notice. Do they see any scientific equipment they recognize? Find the picture of the man sitting alone in his chair. Ask, "What can you *infer* about how this man feels? How can you tell?"

Prior Knowledge: Ask students whether or not they've had gum before. Take a class poll of favorite flavors or kinds and record the results on the board. Do any of your students know how to blow bubbles?

Vocabulary: accountant, budgets, beakers, Mastic tree, tree resin

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about what might have happened if Walter had given up. How would it have affected your life?"



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What have people chewed throughout history besides gum?
- ◆ How do you think these things would taste?

- ◆ What's the difference between chewing and bubble gum?
- ◆ Why do you think Walter wants to invent the first bubble gum?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "What would have happened if Walter had given up? How would your life be different? Do you think we'd still have chewing gum?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students to think about a time in their own lives when they kept working at something even though it was hard. Let them share their experiences. Write Thomas Edison's famous quote about inventing on the board: "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration." What does that mean?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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