

Chapter 1

Summary: John Midas is a well-behaved boy, except for one fault—he loves candy. His parents worry because John has spots on his nose and take him to the doctor. Dr. Cranium confirms their suspicions that John is eating too much candy, especially chocolate. He recommends John eat a more balanced diet.

Characters: John Midas, Mary, Mrs. Midas, Mr. Midas, Miss Plimschle, Mrs. Quaver, Susan Buttercup, Dr. Cranium

Setting: John's home and Dr. Cranium's office

Vocabulary: suitable, brigands, lozenges, nougat, measles, cross, reproof, complications

Questions for Literature Circles or Class Discussion:

All questions align with Bloom's taxonomy: 1-2 Knowledge and Comprehension, 3-4 Application and Analysis, 5-6 Synthesis and Evaluation.

1. What was John's one bad fault? He was a pig about candy.
2. In Dr. Cranium's opinion, what was making John sick? What did the doctor recommend? John seemed to be full of candy. He recommended that John eat less candy.
3. John likes to eat candy more than anything. What do you like to eat most of all?
4. How are John's and his parents' views about candy different? John likes to eat it all the time. John's parents believe he will become sick if he continues.
5. How would you convince John to eat less candy?
6. What do you think will happen if John continues to eat so much candy?

Reading Mini-Lesson: Choose a few stories the class has already read and discuss the main problems/conflicts in the stories, or tell a personal story about a problem you had. Explain how stories must have compelling problems to be interesting to the reader. After reading the first chapter, ask the students to summarize John's problem in one sentence. Survey the students' responses and agree upon one sentence that describes the main conflict of the story.