



## A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY

for gifted Year 3 and 4 children with

a love of thinking and learning to

## The People Vs Mr Willy Wonka

...a philosophical look at the law

**G.A.T.E.WAYS** is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. This *JOURNEY* for both girls and boys will run over four sessions.

Most people have heard of Charlie Bucket, winner of the final golden ticket, devoted son and grandson, lover of chocolate and the new owner of Willy Wonka's famous factory! But before he can take possession and get started on inventing new and exciting lollies, there are a few issues Mr Wonka needs to resolve. Who really owns the intellectual property of the everlasting gobstopper recipe now? Are Augustus, Mike, Violet and Veruca entitled to compensation for their misadventures during the tour after being sucked into a pipe, shrunk, turned blue or dropped into a rubbish chute? Is trouble brewing amongst the hard-working Oompa Loompas over their pay and work conditions? To speed up the process so he can bestow his prize upon Charlie and retire peacefully, Mr Wonka hires a crack team of law experts (that's you!) to brief him about how laws are made, what legal process is the differences between civil and criminal law, and to simulate a courtroom trial so he knows what to expect!

### Session 1 – A Golden Ticket or Golden Trouble?

Welcome to Willy Wonka's chocolate factory! Before you can enter, you'll need to produce your Golden Ticket for admission. Have you read the fine print (would you risk your life, loss of limb, floods, fire, frost or frippery to gain entry)? Do you ever read the fine print? Should you? We'll start our Journey by looking at how systems of law are established, by whom, and why, before exploring what laws are used to frame the terms and conditions on Willy Wonka's Golden Tickets. Are these actually legally binding for the lucky finders? Or are they more like guidelines? We'll then investigate whether the terms and conditions would continue to apply to Charlie if he won the factory and took over. Contract law can be as murky as a chocolate river – armed with this new knowledge, would YOU advise Charlie to sign on Wonka's dotted line?

### Session 2 – The True Owner of the Everlasting Gobstopper

It's been said that possession is nine-tenths of the law, but what does that really mean? Inside Wonka's top-secret inventing room lie amazing creations in various stages of completion – the latest and greatest being a sensational new gum that Violet snatches up and starts to chew, uninvited. While Mr Wonka tries valiantly to stop her, she just won't stop chomping - and before you know it, she has turned into a blueberry! Was this a case of property theft? What if it was found that Wonka tempted Violet into stealing, who would be to blame then? What's the difference between that situation and Fickelgruber, Prodnose and Slugworth sending spies into the factory to steal the recipes for Wonka's best-selling chocolates? Should all these transgressions receive the same punishment? Work with your team to build a case against Violet or Wonka's rival chocolatiers for theft of intellectual property or tangible goods. Evaluate the evidence and explore the role of a judge as you decide if they're guilty and, if so, what price they should be made to pay!

### **Session 3 – To Sue or Not To Sue: The Oompa Loompas’ Dilemma**

Mr Willy Wonka saved the poor, defenceless Oompa Loompas from a fate worse than death at the hands of the fearsome wangdoodles when he spirited them away to ... a factory where they work and live, never venturing into the outside world, and where they are paid only in cocoa beans! That doesn't seem right! Today we'll explore workers' rights and employers' responsibilities. What should Wonka do to look after his workers? Is this the same as what he actually does? Are the Oompa Loompas really safe working in the factory? Wonka tests his creations on them. Is this ethically responsible? This kind of taking responsibility is known as duty of care and applies to how he looks after visitors to his factory like the children, too! To prevent disaster, could he (should he?) have done more to prevent Augustus from falling into the chocolate river, or Mike from shrinking himself in the Television Room? And where does Wonka's duty of care for his workers outweigh his duty of care to the children and their families? Should the Oompa Loompas, the children and their families sue for compensation? We'll delve into the world of the courtroom and look at how the law deals with this kind of civil case as compared to how criminal cases are processed.

### **Session 4 – Order In The (Chocolate) Court!**

STOP THIEF! Alarm bells ring as the children and their families leave the factory and Veruca Salt is found to have an extra everlasting gobstopper in her pocket. She claims to have no idea how it got there! Is she guilty of theft or presumed innocent until proven otherwise? It's not always clear cut! The evidence might appear to point one way, but for a guilty verdict to be recorded, there must be no doubt in the minds of a jury. Could the gobstopper have been planted? What if it accidentally fell into her pocket? We'll conduct a mock trial of this criminal case, taking on the roles of judge, legal clerks, lawyers, witnesses, court reporters and jury, then conduct a community of inquiry into the process. Finally, we'll make the punishment fit the crime! What should Veruca's penalty be if she is indeed found guilty? What different kinds of punishment should we consider? Let the sentencing begin!

### **Homework**

You may be asked to complete short writing tasks between each of the sessions.

### **About the Presenter**

Carley is a Philosopher, Ethicist, and PhD candidate, who loves doing philosophy with kids! She believes kids are naturally great philosophers because they're so full of wonder. Carley has developed and facilitated several philosophy workshops for kids, and she is passionate about making philosophy a fun, everyday part of life.

### **Requirements**

- Bring a notebook (at least A5 size) and a well-stocked pencil case with coloured pencils/textas, grey lead pencils, a rubber, a pencil sharpener, scissors and a glue stick.
- Also bring a snack (no nuts please)