

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl, adapted by Richard R George

*In this scene VIOLET Beauregarde is introducing herself to the audience at the beginning of the play. She is describing how she won her golden ticket and her love for chewing gum.*

VIOLET:

{Chewing ferociously} I'm a gum-chewer normally, but when I heard about these ticket things of Mr Wonka's, I laid off the gum and switched to candy bars in the hope of striking it lucky. Now, of course, I'm right back on gum. I just adore gum. I can't do without it. I munch it all day long except for a few minutes at mealtimes when I take it out and stick it behind my ear for safekeeping.

To tell you the honest truth, I simply wouldn't feel comfortable if I didn't have that little wedge of gum to chew on every moment of the day, I really wouldn't. My mother says it's not ladylike and it looks ugly to see a girl's jaws going up and down like mine do all the time, but I don't agree. And who's she to criticise, anyway, because if you ask me, I'd say that her jaws are going up and down almost as much as mine are just from yelling at me every minute of the day.

And now, it may interest you to know that this piece of gum I'm chewing right at this moment is one I've been working on for three months solid. That's a record that is. It's beaten the record held by my best friend, Miss Cornelia Prinzmetel. And was she ever mad! It's my most treasured possession now, this piece of gum is. At nights, I just stick it on the end of the bedpost and it's as good as new in the morning.