

THE CANDLE MAKER

by
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-Worksheet to accompany the middle grade fiction novel-
(Modify to suit child's age and ability)

***SCIENCE:**

In the story, Butch, aka Henry, is an English bulldog. As the author owns an English bulldog (named Ginger Lily), here are a few “special” facts about this particular breed:
English bulldogs:

- Wheeze, snort, slobber, and snore (very loudly)
- Have very short noses and pinched nostrils, therefore they often have trouble breathing and can suffer with a narrow trachea (windpipe)
- Love food... they will eat and eat if you let them; they have no “off” switch to tell them they are full
- Don't do well in hot weather, as they cannot cool themselves down, so it's best to keep them indoors in the summer (they really like couches!)
- Were bred in England dating back to the sixteenth century, mainly for bull baiting
- Are very affectionate and not very good with “personal space”
- Don't usually swim because they have very large skulls, heavy bodies, and tiny legs—imagine trying to keep afloat!
- Have major gas issues!!



MEET GINGER LILY

ACTIVITY: Choose a breed of dog and do some research. Come up with 10 interesting facts, including something about the dog's biology.

***CREATIVE WRITING:**

The Candle Maker tells the story of a young English boy, Benjamin, who has to face his fears. Everyone has fears in some form—some are common, and some are unusual.

ACTIVITY: Choose one of the following (there are some REALLY long words!) and write a short story about a girl or boy who learns to face that fear:

Arachnophobia— fear of spiders

Automysophobia— fear of being dirty

Acrophobia— fear of heights

Achluophobia— fear of the dark

Aviophobia— fear of flying

***HISTORY:**

The Candle Maker is set in England, in the Victorian era (1837-1901). Here are some fascinating facts about children at that time:

- At the start of the Victorian era, some children went to school (mainly the wealthy), but many had to work to help support their families
- In the schools, students wrote on slate with chalk and then spat on it and rubbed with their sleeve to erase!
- Among other subjects, boys learned math, woodwork, and technical drawing while girls learned sewing and cooking
- Families often had around ten children, although many died from illnesses such as smallpox
- Many poor children wore rags and had no shoes
- Children worked in farms, factories, mines, as servants in wealthy homes, or sold things like matches and ribbons on the streets
- Children could start work at the age of FIVE!
- Soccer was a popular sport for children—poor children could use a blown-up pig's bladder from the butcher's shop!



ACTIVITY: If you were a child living in Victorian England, what would you like most and what would you dislike most? Discuss or write a paragraph.

***READING AND COMPREHENSION:**

ACTIVITY: Read *The Candle Maker* and answer the following questions:

1. What was Benjamin afraid of and why?
2. What are ‘rumors’?
3. Why did Benjamin feel so bad when got home from his first visit to the Candle Maker’s store?
4. Who did he meet in the alley and what happened?
5. What gave Benjamin the courage to enter the Candle Maker’s store the second time?
6. What did he notice this time about the inside of the store?
7. Why do you think Benjamin changed his mind about the Candle Maker?
8. What does “taming the tongue” mean?

JUST FOR FUN:*COCKNEY RHYMING SLANG:**

What is cockney slang? It’s a whole host of crazy phrases used by some folks in London, England. A “cockney” is actually someone born within earshot of the sound of Bow Bells (in the East End of London). The author’s grandparents were cockneys ☺

Here are some examples—and yes, people really do use them!

- “apples and pears” means “stairs”
- “trouble and strife” means “wife”
- “mince pies” means “eyes”
- “pen and ink” means “stink”
- “brown bread” means “dead”
- “Rosy Lee” means “tea”
- “tea leaf” means “thief”
- “north and south” means “mouth”
- “Joanna” means “piano” (pronounced pianna!)
- “Hank Marvin” means “starving”

ACTIVITY: See if you can use any of these rhyming cockney slang phrases as you talk to people today!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

ACTIVITY: Read *The Candle Maker* and complete the crossword puzzle attached.

*Answers can be found here: <https://crosswordhobbyist.com/132901>

Feel free to contact Laura Thomas on her website: www.laurathomasauthor.com