

## Chocolate and English by English with Abigail

### Fun Sheet

### Chocolat by Joanne Harris

#### Before we read

1. Have you ever seen the movie Chocolat, or read the book?  
If yes, do you remember the story?  
If no, what do you think it is about?

#### Story summary:

Vianne Rocher and her daughter, Anouk, arrive in a small French town and open a chocolate shop, called La Praline. But it is Lent, the season of self-denial. People shouldn't be eating chocolate at this time. Will anyone buy her chocolate?

2. Match the words with the pictures

Mass	Beggar	Mendiants	Hob	Diner



## Read the passage

### As you read think about these questions:

1. How is the weather? What colours do you see outside?
2. What does the shop look like, what colours are inside?

Chocolat by Joanne Harris, pages 46-48.

I opened as usual today. For the morning only - I'll allow myself a half-day with Anouk this afternoon - but it's Mass this morning and there will be people in the square. February has reasserted its drab self and now it is raining; a freezing, gritty rain which slicks the paving and colours the sky the shade of old pewter. Anouk reads a book of nursery rhymes behind the counter and keeps an eye on the door for me as I prepare a batch of *mendiants* in the kitchen. These are my own favourites - thus named because they were sold by beggars and gypsies years ago - biscuit sized discs of dark, milk or white chocolate upon which have been scattered lemon-rind, almonds and plump Malaga raisins. Anouk likes the white ones, though I prefer the dark, made with the finest 70 percent couverture... Bitter-smooth on the tongue with the taste of the secret tropics. My mother would have despised this too. And yet this is also a kind of magic.

Since Friday I have fitted a set of bar stools next to the counter of La Praline. Now it looks a little like the diners we used to visit in New York, red leather seats and chrome stems, cheerily kitsch. The walls are a bright daffodil colour. Poitou's old orange armchair lolls cheerily in one corner. A menu stands to the left, hand-lettered and coloured by Anouk in shades of orange and red.

Chocolat chaud 10F

Chocolat espresso 15F

Chococcino 12F

Mocha 12F

I baked a cake last night, and the hot chocolate is standing in a pot on the hob, awaiting my first customer. I make sure that a similar menu is visible from the window and I wait.

Mass comes and goes. I watch the passers-by, morose beneath the freezing drizzle. My door, slightly open, emits a hot scent of baking and sweetness. I catch a number of longing glances at the source of this but a flick of the eye backwards, a shrugging of the shoulders, a twist of the mouth which may be resolve or simply temper, and they are gone, leaning into the wind with rounded, miserable shoulders, as if an angel with a flaming sword were standing at the door to bar their entry.

### More words to study

What could you label this column?	What would you label this column?
Drab, pewter, morose	Tropics, kitsch, daffodil
Twist of the mouth	The armchair lolls cheerily
Rounded, miserable shoulders	Hot scent of baking and sweetness

Make a note of any points of importance to you here.

### The final image

“as if an angel with a flaming sword were standing at the door to bar their entry.”

What image is the writer giving us here?



**Did you like this reading?**

How did you feel - the first time you read it?

After we studied it? Did your feelings change?

Would you like to read the whole book? Or watch the film?

Why/ why not?

If you would like more lessons like this, please join me on the 4 weeks course Chocolate and English. Get all the details here <https://mumenglishcircle.com/choco>

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