

# CHARLIE'S SWEET TOOTH



By

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### Charlie's Sweet Tooth

"Time to get up for school, Charlie!" Charlie's mom yelled from the kitchen downstairs.

"Okay, okay, I'm up!" Charlie yelled back and he groaned as he got out of bed. Rufus, Charlie's dog jumped on this bed, signaling that it was time for him to get up.

"Okay, Rufus, I'll get up."



It was time for another day of fifth grade. Charlie quickly got dressed but slowly walked down the stairs and Rufus followed him. Suddenly he smelled his favorite home cooked chocolate chip pancakes, and he quickly skipped the rest of the way down the stairs.

“Do I smell what I think I smell?” asked Charlie excitedly.

“I think so,” said his Mom with a big smile across her face.

Charlie sat down in his favorite blue chair right next to his dad. His dad was reading the daily newspaper until he noticed Charlie.

“Good morning, son.”

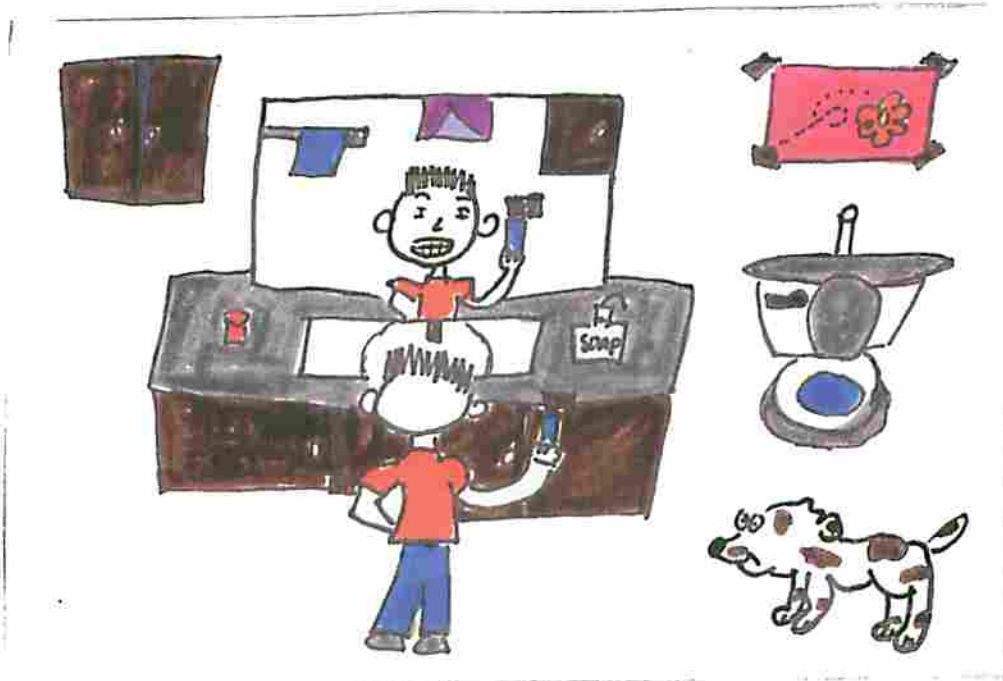
“Good morning,” Charlie replied as his Mom placed two chocolate chip pancakes on Charlie’s plate, “Thanks Mom!”



Charlie drowned his chocolate chip pancakes in maple syrup. Yum, he thought, and he chowed it down quickly so he wouldn't be late for school.

"Alright, now go brush your teeth and meet me in the car," said his Mom.

"Okay," said Charlie. He hated brushing his teeth.



Charlie looked at the toothbrush for a long time. Then he looked at his teeth in the mirror. Then he looked at Rufus.

"Do I need this Rufus?"

Rufus barked. I don't need this, he thought, and he placed the toothbrush down, and ran out the door calling "Bye Rufus, Bye dad" and into the car.

"Did you brush your teeth?" asked Mom.

"Yep!" Charlie lied.

In no time Charlie was at school.

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As Charlie was writing his last sentence in his writing book, the bell rang, and it was time for Charlie to go home. Charlie walked out the school and met his dad in the parking lot.

“How was school today?” asked his Dad.

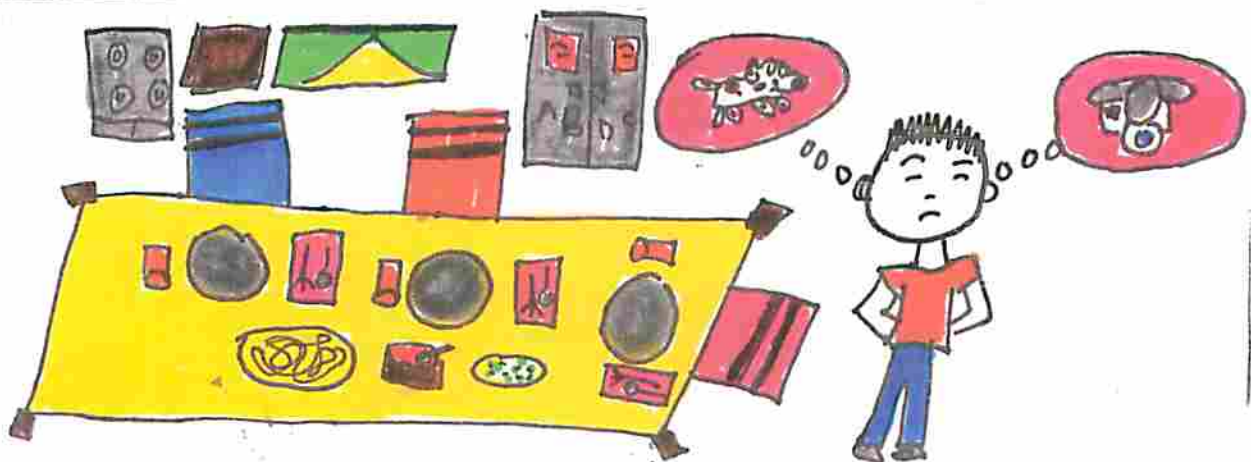
“It was fun, Peter and I won the scavenger hunt and Mrs. Fields gave us the biggest chocolate bar in the world!” exclaims Charlie.

“Wow, that sounds fantastic Charlie,” said Dad, and the car came to a stop.

Charlie hopped out the car and ran inside the house. He knew the drill, it was the same everyday, first he would feed Rufus, then he would do his homework, watch thirty minutes of T.V., and then it was time for dinner.

“What are we having tonight?” asked Charlie setting up the table.

“Spaghetti with meatballs and veggies,” replied his Mom, “and if you finish your veggies then we have chocolate cake for dessert.”



Not only did Charlie hate brushing his teeth, he also hated vegetables. He tried thinking of ideas of how to get rid of the vegetables. He thought, and he thought, and he thought. And he got it, he was going to feed all his vegetables to Rufus, and that was what he did. His parents thought that Charlie was being a good boy eating his vegetables, but it was all being fed to Rufus. And he did it for weeks, non-stop. Soon Rufus was getting so strong and big, while Charlie was becoming small and weak. Charlie couldn't even open a jar of peanut butter for his peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Every night Charlie's Mom would ask his Dad, "Why isn't Charlie getting tall and strong?"

"No worries, our son just need some time," his Dad would answer.

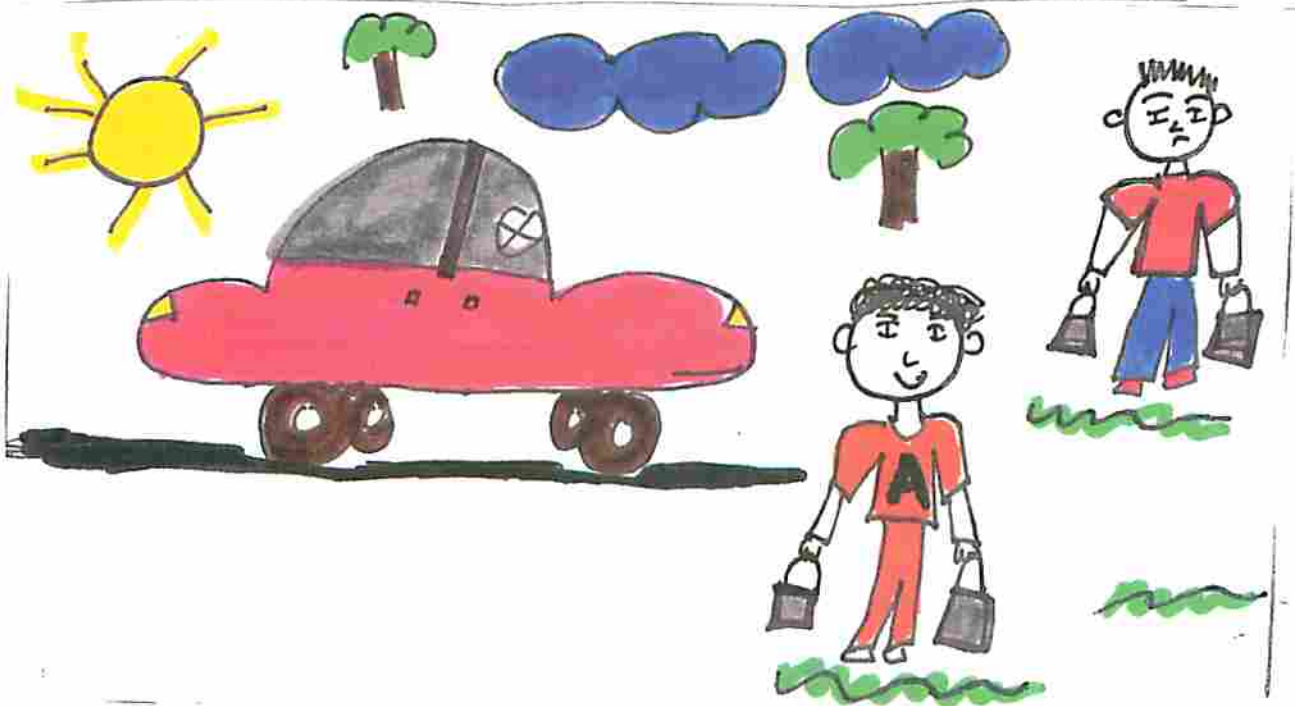


One late afternoon Charlie and his best friend Peter were playing basketball and eating lots of candy bars in Charlie's backyard. Peter was getting almost all his shots in the basket while Charlie could not.

"Hey, Charlie and Peter," Charlie's mom yelled from inside the house, "can you guys help me out with the groceries please?"

"Sure!" They yelled back each grabbing a handful of M&M's from a bowl on the picnic table and stuffing it into their mouths.

They went around the house and to the driveway, where Charlie's mom parked her car. They each carried two bags of groceries of equal weight. Peter ran into the house and into the kitchen, Charlie was ten steps slower than Peter, and he was already out of breath.



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“Why are you so slow, even your dog can be faster then you!” teased Peter.

“Oh, be quite!” Charlie said.

“Lets go play some ball!”

“No, I’m kinda tired.”

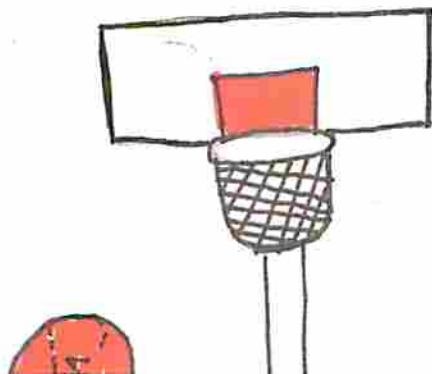


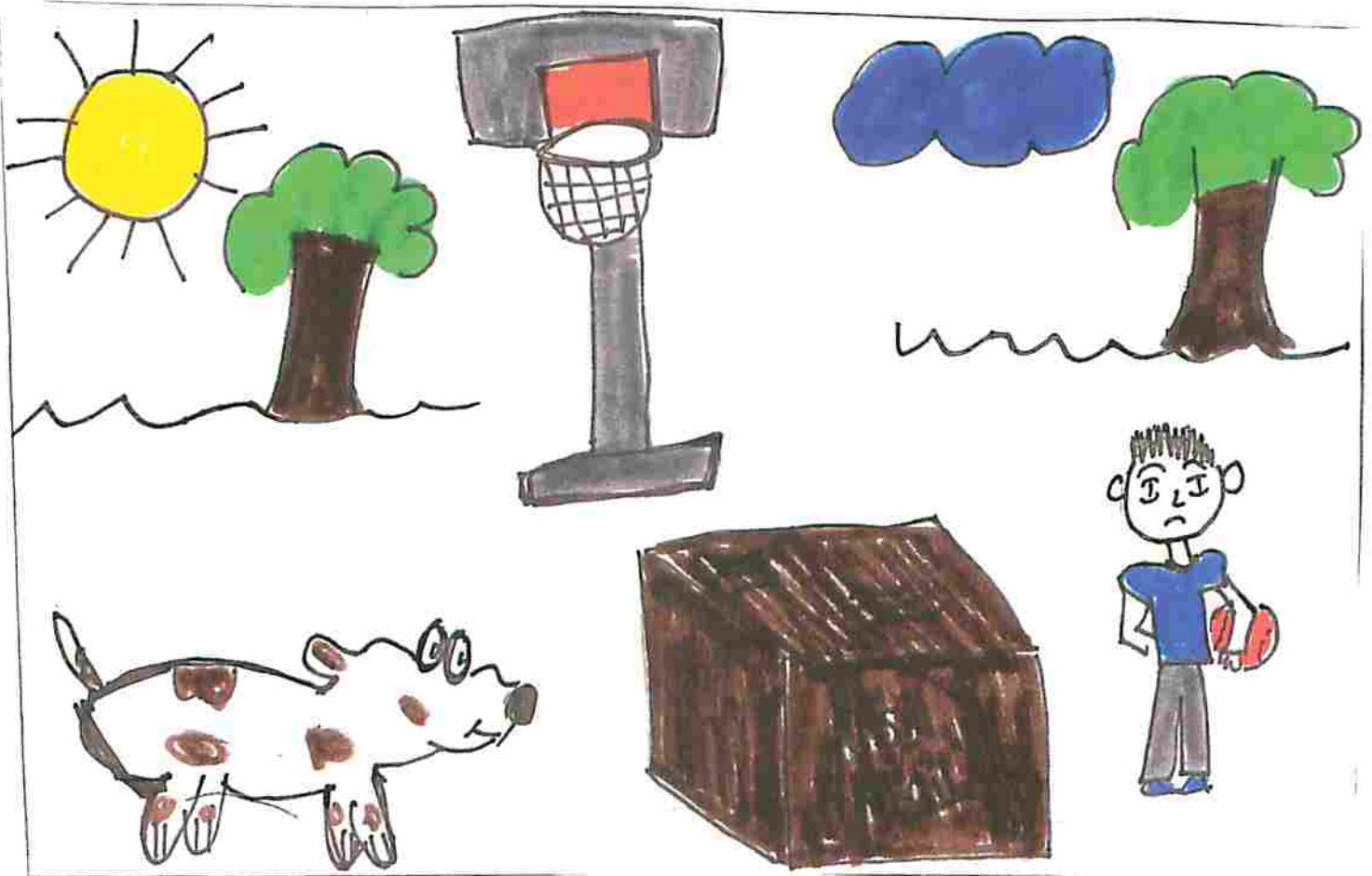
“What? Already?” said Peter surprised, “alright, I guess it is getting kinda late.”

And with that Peter went home, leaving Charlie sad. Charlie picked up the ball and tried to shoot a basket, but he missed just like all his other shots. Why am I not strong, he asked himself. Rufus ran up to Charlie and jumped up high, almost to the height of Charlie. And why are you so big and strong he asked Rufus, but Rufus just ran around in circles. Charlie picked up the bowl of M&M’s and grabbed a big hand full and stuffed it into his mouth.



The next weekend, Charlie finished all his homework and wanted to practice basketball so he can beat Peter, but when he got to his backyard a big and heavy brown box was in front of his basketball hoop. He tried pushing it, and pushing it, and pushing it at all sides, but it would not budge. Just then Rufus came running around the corner. Rufus looked at Charlie and knew what he had to do. Rufus walked around the box and sniffed it. Then he pushed, and he pushed, and he pushed, and the box was moved out of Charlie’s way.





“How did you just do that?” exclaimed Charlie, “Why is everyone so much stronger than I am!”

Rufus barked and sat down.

“Go away!” Charlie yelled.

Rufus looked at Charlie and slowly got up and walked away sadly.

I can be strong, I know I can Charlie said to himself. Then he dribbled the ball around the yard and shot the ball, but it did not go in. He dug into his pants pocket and found a chocolate bar and ate it in one big bite. All of a sudden, Charlie felt a sharp pain in his tooth, and he ran to his mom.

“Oh, you might have a cavity,” said his Mom.

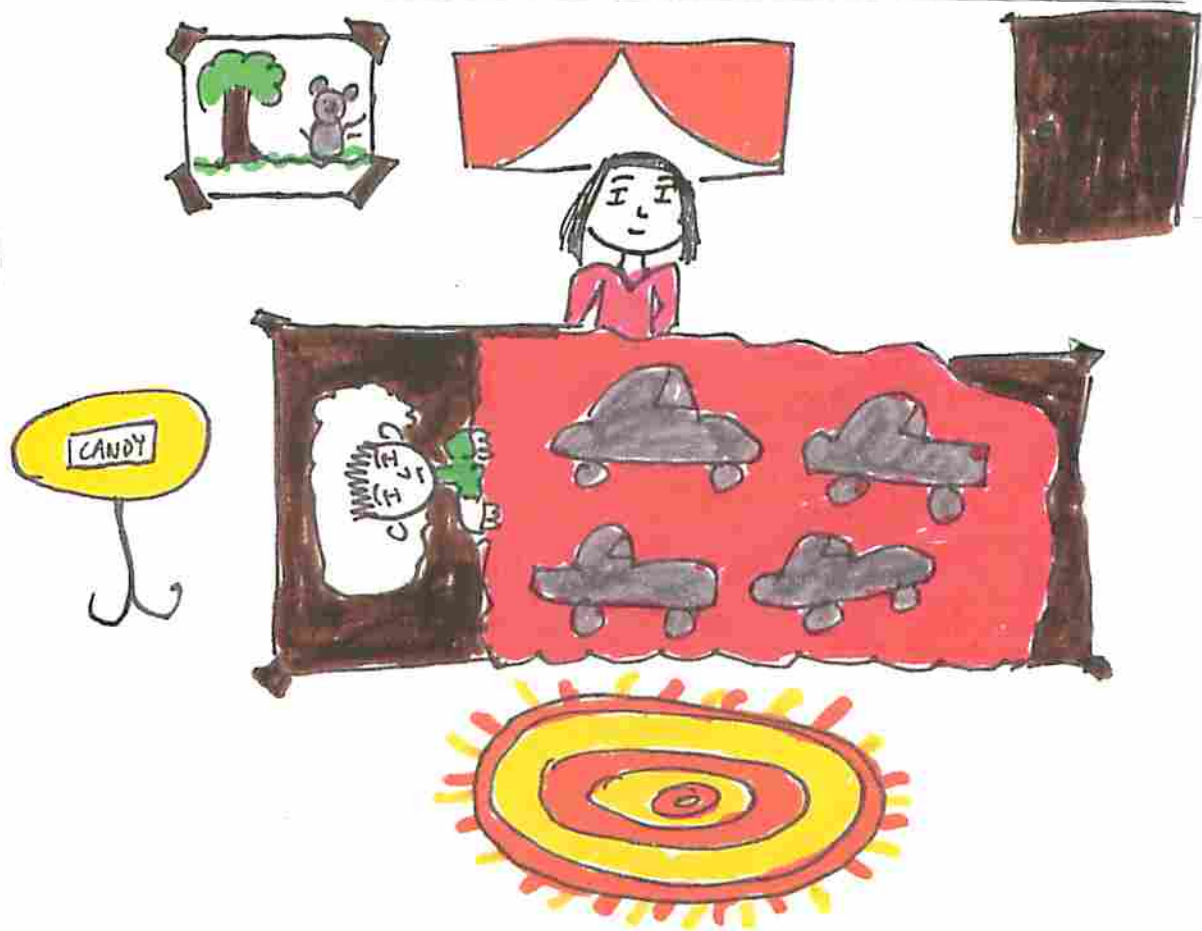
“What? What’s that?” asked Charlie.

“It’s an ache in your teeth when you eat too much candy and not brush your teeth,” explained his Mom.

“But it hurts,” cried Charlie.

“It will be fine, here take these two pain killers, and go to bed.”


Charlie did what his mom said. She tucked him into bed and kissed him goodnight. Charlie was still pondering over how his best friend was always stronger than him and how Rufus was too.



“Mom, how come I’m not strong?” asked Charlie.

“Well, have you been eating all your veggies?”

“Yeah. every dav.” Charlie lied.


“Well, then that’s something we’ll have to figure out tomorrow goodnight honey,” said Charlie’s mom closing the door behind her. 




Charlie thought for a long time in the dark. For the past weeks he has been feeding his dog all his vegetables, maybe that was why he couldn’t grow tall and strong.

And he ate so much candy but hardly ever brushed his teeth, maybe that was why his




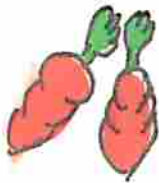
 tooth was hurting. Soon he fell asleep while the painkillers worked on his tooth. The next

 morning he woke up with no toothache, he ate his breakfast, this time scrambled eggs and a piece of toast. Should I brush my teeth, he thought as he was eating. Then he


remembered the toothache from last night, he sure didn’t want that to happen again so he


brushed his teeth, extra long. After he finished brushing his teeth, he remembered how


mean he was to Rufus. Charlie found Rufus in the kitchen and apologized with a special treat, and he also thanked Rufus for helping him move the big heavy box. 



That night at dinner Charlie rolled his carrots and broccoli around his plate,

“Does these really make me strong?” Charlie asked his Mom. 

“Of course, the carrots even make your eye site better so you can shoot the basketball in the hoop,” said his Mom. 

And for the next week he ate all his vegetables and less chocolate, and he had no more toothaches. Charlie even grew to love carrots and it became his new favorite vegetable and snack. Peter came by to play basketball and Charlie made all his shots. 

Peter and Charlie had a tie. These carrots do make my eyes stronger, he thought.



“Hey, Charlie and Peter,” Charlie’s mom yelled from inside the house, “can you guys help me out with the groceries please?”

Charlie and Peter looked at each other and ran to the car. They each grabbed

a few bags, and it was of equal weight. They ran into the house and they made it at the same time.



“Charlie, you got stronger and faster!” Peter said surprised.

Charlie smiled and ran out into the backyard, “Let’s eat some carrots and play some ball!”

Rufus on the other hand still was strong, he just ate all his dog food.

*The End*