

# Chapter 10

Chapter 10 of *The Chocolate War* finds Archie reluctantly acknowledging the successful dramatization of the chocolate sale by Brother Leon, which has placed increasing pressure on him and The Vigils. The chapter opens with a special assembly designed to rally the student body around the sale, where Brother Leon introduces ten large cardboard posters listing the names of every student, alongside spaces to record their chocolate sales. The assembly begins with the usual prayers, but the mood quickly shifts as the posters, unable to stick to the concrete walls, cause some humorous disruption. This unexpected mishap provides a brief comic relief, but it doesn't deter Brother Leon, who continues his plan to stir up enthusiasm for the sale. Despite the disruptions, the atmosphere shifts as Brother Leon's speech grows more intense, focusing on the importance of school spirit and the need for funds to support Trinity, as he sets the stage for the increased chocolate sales quotas.

Brother Leon's speech becomes a powerful blend of manipulation and nostalgia as he urges the students to view their chocolate sales as a matter of pride for the school's legacy. The stakes are raised when Leon announces that the sales quota has been doubled to fifty boxes per student, a move intended to intensify the sense of obligation. He emphasizes the importance of this contribution to the school's survival and calls on the students to rise to the occasion, invoking a sense of collective responsibility. The urgency of his message is clear: these sales are no longer just about fundraising but about securing the very future of Trinity, using both guilt and pride as his main tools. Despite the motivation behind his words, Archie begins to feel a slight unease as Leon's fervor grows, leading him to reflect on the complexities of his role in this scheme. As the weight of the situation sinks in, Archie's internal conflict grows as he wrestles with his own part in the chocolate sale's success and his desire to maintain control.

As Brother Leon continues with his speech, Archie's thoughts drift, focusing on the earlier Vigil meeting where he had guaranteed his support for the chocolate sale, despite his peers' initial reluctance. At the meeting, Archie had argued passionately that The Vigils needed to endorse the event to showcase their influence, convincing the others that it was a matter of maintaining their authority. However, listening to Leon's overly dramatic speech now, doubts begin to creep into Archie's mind, as the exaggerated enthusiasm from Brother Leon feels less genuine and more like a power play. Archie begins to question whether he made the right call in backing the sale, as he now sees the pressure mounting not just on him but on his peers. He reflects on his strategy for handling the increased quota, knowing that, while he has always managed to avoid selling chocolates himself, this year's plan will require more finesse. Archie's usual method has been to delegate the responsibility, giving others the task of selling while keeping his own hands clean. However, he realizes that this year he will distribute the workload more evenly, ensuring each person only has to sell ten boxes. By framing his strategy as fair and compassionate, Archie justifies his decision, although the underlying intention remains to maintain control over The Vigils' operations. As he sits back, satisfied with his calculated approach, he exhibits both his arrogance and a misplaced sense of fairness, showing how his manipulation skills remain sharp even as his doubts about Brother Leon's methods grow. This moment sets the stage for Archie's ongoing internal struggle, balancing the need for control with the demands of the increasing pressure surrounding him.