



From: Edward Smith-Pickle
To: Morton Pickle
Date: Saturday 6 August
Subject: Re: Re: Re: Re:
Chocolate



 **Attachments:** Our very own flame-thrower

Dear Uncle Morton,

I'm sorry I haven't replied more quickly to tell you what happened, but I've been too busy feeding the dragon all the chocolate in the house and then going to the shop to get some more.

The dragon is a changed beast.

Mum says he's been behaving like a little angel and he has. He's stopped stealing food. He poos on the grass. He doesn't even sit on the sofa any more. Actually that's not quite true, but he gets off as soon as he's told to.

Tonight we had a barbecue in the garden.
Your dragon lit it.



Then he ate six sausages, three chops and
nine baked bananas. Luckily Mum had just
been to the supermarket, so there was
enough for us too.

Now your dragon is lying on the floor,
looking at me with his big eyes. I know I
shouldn't give him any more chocolate. I
don't want him to get fat. But I'm just
going to give him one more piece and then
it's time for bed.

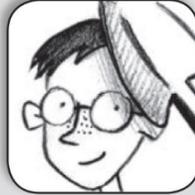
Eddie

From: Edward Smith-Pickle

To: Morton Pickle

Date: Saturday 6 August

Subject: Re: Re: Re: Re: Re:
Chocolate



Attachments: Storytime; Emily's new best friend

Dear Uncle Morton,

I thought you might like to know your dragon has now eaten:

12 bars of milk chocolate
14 bars of plain chocolate
6 Twixes
1 Crunchie
and 23 bags of Maltesers.

The man in the shop is starting to look at me in a funny way.

I thought Mum would mind buying so much, but she said, "If he's happy, I'm

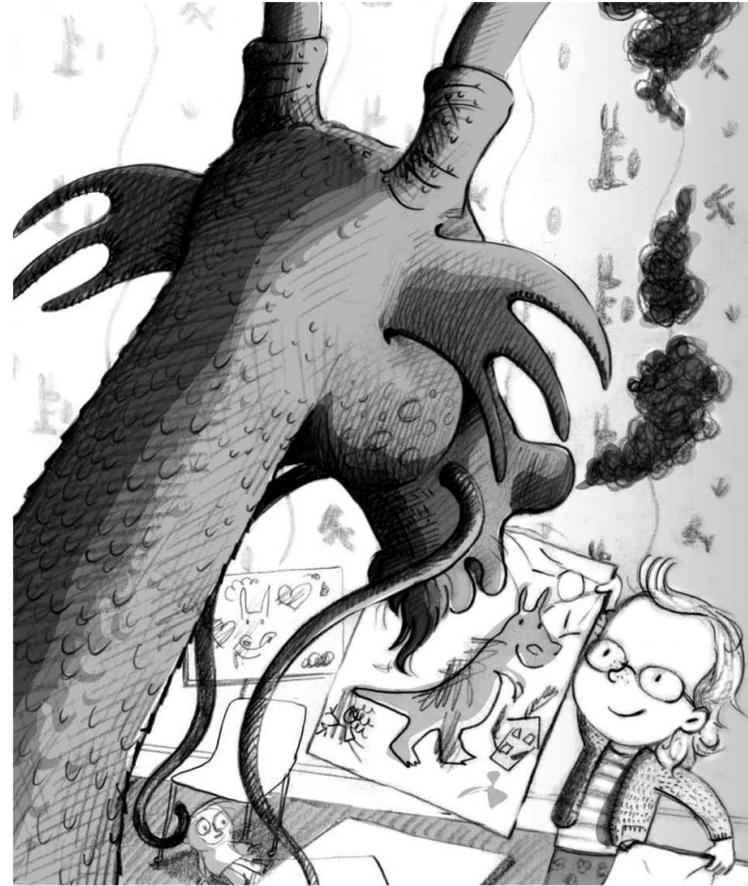
happy."

He is. Very.



Even Emily has forgiven him. She seems to have forgotten all about Jemima. I think

she'd like to have your dragon as a pet instead.



She's started calling him Cupcake.

I've told her several times that Cupcake isn't a suitable name for a dragon, but she takes no notice.

Does he actually have a name?

If he doesn't, I would suggest Desolation. Or Firebreath. Or something like that.

But not Cupcake.

I hope you're enjoying the last few hours of your holiday and managing to get a last swim and some sunshine. It's raining here.

See you tomorrow. Don't miss your flight!

Love from
Eddie

5

From: Morton Pickle

To: Edward Smith-Pickle

Date: Saturday 6 August

Subject: Re: Re: Re: Re: Re: Re:
Chocolate



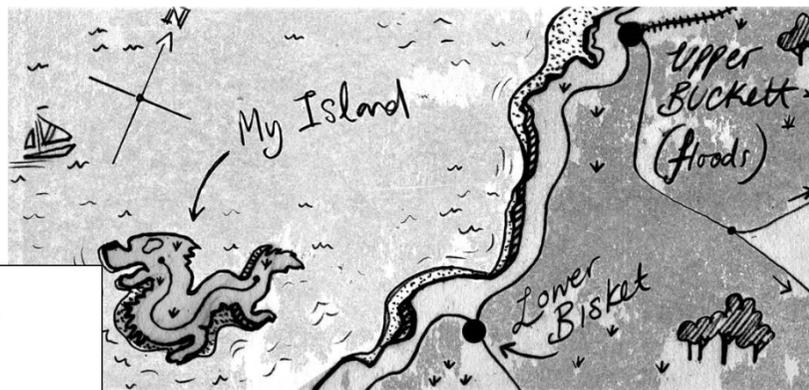
Attachments: My island; Hotel Bellevue;
Les Fruits de Mer d'Alphonse



Hi Eddie, Very glad to hear that my tip about chocolate did the trick. It always does with dragons, even the biggest of them. I remember hiking through the mountains of Outer Mongolia with a rucksack almost entirely stuffed with Cadbury's Fruit & Nut. Without it, I wouldn't be here today. I fed the whole lot to the biggest dragon I've ever seen in my life, a bad-tempered chap with teeth as big as my hands and terrible breath.

I'll tell you the whole story when I see you, but I don't have time now. I've got to be quick. I'm in the airport and my flight

leaves any minute. But I wanted to write to you and say I AM SO VERY SORRY for not reading your messages earlier in the week. I could have checked my mail at the hotel, but I had resolved not to interrupt my holiday. That was stupid of me, I know, and I am exceedingly apologetic. I only looked yesterday because I had heard a rumour from a fellow guest that there have been terrible floods in Lower Bisket, the town opposite my island. I have several good friends living there, so I wanted to check they were safe. (You'll be glad to know that the floods were actually in Upper Bucket, which is quite different.)



6

I'm very sorry too that my naughty little dragon has been behaving himself so badly. Were my instructions no use at all? I was quite sure I had included the tip about chocolate.

Will you please apologise to your mother about the mix up over hotels? I had been planning to stay in the Hotel Splendide, which is why your mother had their address and phone number. On arrival, I discovered that their chef, the famous Alphonse Mulberry, had quarreled with the owner and moved to an establishment in the next town along the coast. So I moved there too. I'm glad I did. His cooking is even more spectacular than I had remembered.

For some reason I don't appear to have your mother's email address, which is why I'm sending this to you. Please apologise to her on my behalf. I have bought her an enormous chunk of Roquefort as a

present. I know how much she likes cheese.



They're calling my flight. I'd better go and join the scrum. I'll see you very soon.

Lots of love from your affectionate and apologetic uncle,

Morton

Task:

Answer these questions about the text. These are a mixture of retrieval (just finding the answer) and inference (using the clues to answer what you think is happening).

- 1.) List 2 things that the dragon is now doing which shows that chocolate worked (page 1).
- 2.) Why do you think Eddie gave the dragon one more piece of chocolate? (page 2)

Challenge: explain how you know by proving your answer from the text.

- 3.) Why is the man in the shop starting to look at Edward in a funny way? (page3)
- 4.) Why does Edward think that Cupcake is not a suitable name for a dragon? (Page 5)

Challenge: explain how you know by proving your answer from the text.

- 5.) Why did Uncle M not respond to Edwards emails earlier? (page 6)
- 6.) Why was Uncle M not staying at the hotel that Edward's mother thought he was staying at?
(page 6)