

In "Where Does Chocolate Come From?" a father gently broaches the difficult topic of child labor with his curious son, Jack, as they explore the origins of his favourite treat: chocolate!

As they delve into the story behind cocoa production, Jack learns about the harsh realities faced by children his age who are forced to work on cocoa farms. Through poignant conversations and vivid illustrations, the book aims to shed light on the exploitation of child labor in the chocolate industry, highlighting the importance of ethical consumption and standing up for justice.

Through the father-son duo's journey, young readers are encouraged to ask questions, think critically, and advocate for change, making "Where Does Chocolate Come From?" a thought-provoking tale for children and adults to recognise their role in changing the child labor practices in the chocolate industry. By spreading awareness, supporting fair trade practices, and choosing ethically sourced chocolate, readers can contribute to creating a world where all children have the opportunity to enjoy childhood without exploitation.



Introduction

Fair World and Fair Chocolate is possible!

Just as Jack discovers, in the real world farmers work very hard to harvest the cocoa needed for the delicious chocolate treats you love.

Unfortunately, to cut costs some farmers employ children for this hard work. This means that they're working out in the hot sun instead of enjoying school. A day or two off school for an illness like Jack's is okay, but not being able to go to school at all is unfair. All children deserve to play, learn and be safe.

What can you do? Spreading the word is important, just as Jack's dad did. Tell your parents about what you've learnt about fair trade and chocolate. By letting them know, you can support fair trade chocolate meaning farms employ fairly.

Writing to chocolate companies to ask them to make your favourite sweet treats fair trade is also a great idea! This means you can eat your favourite chocolates whilst also keeping the hardworking farmers happy.

If enough kids speak up, the more companies will listen. You have the power to stand up against unfairness even through small acts like asking for fair trade chocolate when possible.

Bit by bit, you can make the world a little sweeter!



Jack woke up with a sniffly nose and sore throat. "I'm not well", he told his dad.

Feeling his forehead, his dad said,

"You should stay home today kiddo. It seems like you have a fever.

Stay in bed and I'll bring you up a treat . "



Jack thought he would
be happy to miss
school, but felt bored.

Jack misses his friends.
Playing football is Jack's
favourite part of the
day.



Later, Jack's dad came up with a sandwich, orange squash and a chocolate bar.

"This should help you feel a bit better," he said with love.

"Chocolate!" Screamed Jack with Joy

Jack quickly unwrapped the bar and scoffed it down

"Mmmmmmm", smiles Jack, "where does chocolate come from daddy?"



Jack's dad said sitting on the edge of their bed, "chocolate comes from cocoa beans grown far away in countries like Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana."

"It does?" Jack asked, "Well I love cocoa beans then."

"Don't we all!" Jack's dad laughed,

"But we must think about how chocolate is made."

Jack raised his head in curiosity.



"Some chocolate companies aren't very nice, and kids as young as you have to work on these farms," their dad said with a frown.

"But what about school daddy?", Jack's forehead crinkled.

Their dad continued "these kids can't go to school Jack."

Jack looked sad, "wow, I am really lucky."



“Don’t worry Jack”, said his Dad,
“not all chocolate comes from
kids.”

He continues, “some chocolate
companies follow something
called ‘fair trade’. This means
farmers are paid fair and have
good working conditions.”

Jack felt a sense of relief. He
loved going to school, and
wanted others too as well.



Their dad smiled, "We buy fair trade when we can. Helping someone far away shows kindness."

Jack took another bite of chocolate. With his mouth full he said, "I want to be kind just like you Dad."

Knowing about fair trade made Jack feel happy inside. Jack can't wait to see his friends in school tomorrow.