

## SCHOOL RESOURCE PACK



ADVERTISING AT  
**ROWNTREE'S**

It's the fl  
flavou  
FLAVO  
that the families  
favour—the flavour of

# ROWNTREE'S COCOA

## INTRODUCTION

### AT A GLANCE

Suitable for: KS3 and KS4 English

Curriculum Link:

- Consider how a text reflects the audiences and purposes for which it was intended
- Study the effectiveness and impact of documents, by analysing the choice of vocabulary, form, grammatical and structural features,
- Understand how language and images can be used as a persuasion tool

Learning Objectives:

- To understand how Rowntree & Co. tailored adverts and products to specific audiences through language and images
- To be able to apply these techniques to other forms of persuasive documents

Further Resources:

- [Yorkshire Film Archives for TV adverts](#)
- [The History of Advertising Trust](#)

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### BACKGROUND

Rowntree & Co. was founded in York in 1862 by Henry Isaac Rowntree. While they initially focused on cocoa and chocolate, Rowntree's began to flourish after they created the first English Fruit Pastilles in 1881. Prior to this pastilles had been imported from France.

Initially Rowntree's largely eschewed advertising, as they believed that the high quality of their products would speak for itself. However the 1920s saw a dip in sales that left the company on the edge of bankruptcy. As such, the company decided to create specific, branded products, each with advertising aimed at a specific target audience. Black Magic, the first of these new products, was launched in 1933.

This resource pack focuses on three Rowntree's products. Sources 1 to 3 are cocoa adverts, suggesting cocoa is good for the whole family. Rowntree's created a 'purer cocoa' in 1887, so the high quality of the product is also emphasized. Sources 4 to 6 are adverts for Black Magic chocolates, while source 7 is the campaign summary for their 'letter adverts'. Prior to the 1930s, giving a girl a box of chocolates was expensive and tantamount to a marriage proposal. Rowntree's changed this by creating a simple and affordable box of chocolates called Black Magic. The adverts promote Black Magic as being a romantic and indulgent. These 'letter adverts' were so successful that the campaign continued for nearly forty years. Finally, sources 8 to 11 are adverts for Fruit Pastilles or Fruit Gums. Originally Fruit Pastilles were marketed as a sort of cough sweet, but after the introduction of the 'two penny tubes' in 1928, the advertising changed focus and became aimed almost exclusively at children.

Rowntree's was taken over by Nestlé in 1988, but continues to operate as a brand.



## SOURCES

### Source 1

*Rowntree's Guard Book N2, 'It's the Flavour,' 1910*



## Source 2

Rowntree's Guard Book N4, 'Cocoa for Breakfast,' 1912

3rd insertion. 15 over 2 cols. Scheme A.

MAKERS TO H.M. THE KING

BY APPOINTMENT

# Cocoa for Breakfast

Breakfast is the foundation of the day's work—and because so much depends on this one meal it is worth everyone's while to give Elect Cocoa a serious trial at breakfast.

Clerks, typists, shop assistants who have a long morning's work and perhaps a scanty lunch; railwaymen, miners, factory hands, workers indoors and out, who make an early breakfast and who do much hard physical work upon it—all these will find in Elect Cocoa a source of energy and an aid against fatigue.


## The reasons why.

Everyone who has good health and good work at heart should read the reasons printed here and give Elect Cocoa a serious trial.

1. Breakfast is the meal when one needs much nourishment and often has the least time in which to take it. Elect Cocoa is very sustaining, quickly prepared and easily digested.
2. Elect Cocoa is stimulating and refreshing because it contains a high proportion of theobromine.
3. As mothers know, milk is a most nourishing food, yet one of which so many little ones easily tire when taken alone. Elect Cocoa made mainly or entirely with milk is a fine diet for children.
4. Elect Cocoa, unlike some breakfast beverages, has no harmful effect upon the nerves. In the words of one of our correspondents, "Elect Cocoa braces one wonderfully for the day's work."
5. Elect Cocoa warms and cheers. It contains the necessary proportion of fat to maintain the warmth of the body.
6. The unremitting care in the selection of the cocoa beans and the skill exercised in the manufacture of Elect Cocoa ensure that the natural nourishing value and inherent aroma are maintained.
7. The delicious Rowntree Flavour is one of the best of reasons in favour of Elect Cocoa as a breakfast beverage. It is a powerful factor in the assimilation of the meal, for doctors say that the food one enjoys is the food that does one the most good. Make a better breakfast, make a more enjoyable breakfast, make a start to-morrow morning with a large cup of

Elect Cocoa with the

# Rowntree Flavour





**Source 3**

Rowntree's Guard Book A1, 'January,' 1927

# JANUARY

That  
"R"

in the month means  
**Rowntree's  
Cocoa**

Janua-r-r-r-y—the very word makes one begin to shiver. Frosty nights, chill and sunless days—that "R" in the month means Rowntree's Cocoa because it is extra warming and nourishing in cold weather.

The nourishing and recuperative power of Cocoa is so great that it forms the principal constituent of many expensive nerve foods.

*Give your children Rowntree's Cocoa regularly and help them to grow up into strong-nerved, healthy men and women. And Rowntree's Cocoa has "the flavour, Flavour, FLAVOUR that families favour."*

Rowntree's Cocoa has ever been famous for quality—yet a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tin costs only 1/-. Buy a tin to-day.



**The Cocoa with the Coupons  
for the Free Gift Chocolates.**

Rowntree's Cocoa and Rowntree's Jellies both contain coupons for a handsome Gift Casket of York Chocolates and Confectionery.

Start collecting to-day and send a postcard to Rowntree & Co., Ltd., Gift Dept., York, for full particulars.





#### Source 4

Rowntree's Guard Book B13, 'I'll Marry Charles,' 1934



think I'll marry Charles after  
all, even though it does mean  
living in New York. He's here now!  
My dear I could have hugged him  
last night at Monseigneur's. He was  
so sweet to me. He chose me those  
gorgeous Black Magic chocolates—  
unasked too — you know, the new  
kind with marvellous de luxe  
centres. Trust Charles! Haven't  
you seen the intriguing black boxes  
in shop windows? They're  
Rowntree's special new flavours  
Ask you Jack to

DOWN ST.  
MAYFAIR, W.

*A word of explanation:*


Black Magic are the special new Chocolates which over 3,000 chocolate-lovers judged "best" — even against 5/- a pound assortments. By using this simple sophisticated black box, instead of fancy expensive decorations and tinfoil, Messrs. Rowntree's are able to sell Black Magic at 2/10 a pound, 1/5 a half, or 9d. a quarter.

6301—R Rowntree's 18 Newspapers 1 Nov. etc., 1934 8 x 6½




## Source 5

Rowntree's Guard Book B32, 'An Evening in the Grand Manner,' late 1950s



THE REST  
OF THE STORY

There are two reasons why Black Magic chocolates are worth writing home about. First, those really luscious centres. And then, however much you pay, you won't find *better* chocolates than Black Magic. This is because Rowntrees put all the value into the *chocolates*, packing them simply, but elegantly, in a smart black box.



an evening in the Grand Manner,  
my dear — and didn't enjoy it!  
Stephen really is fascinating,  
but I played him at his own  
game and pretended not to  
be impressed. And it seems to  
have intrigued him, too, because  
today there came a box of  
those divine Black Magic chocolates  
(those centres!) so perhaps I am

MADE BY ROWNTREES

6495 B. Magic Yorkshire Life Feb. 1955 10 x 7½ Final Proof  
Illustrated

NT6639



## Source 6

Rowntree's Guard Book B32, 'Hanging About the Quad,' late 1950s

Picture Post, September 24, 1955 Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper



THE REST OF THE STORY  
There are two reasons why Black Magic chocolates are worth writing home about. First, those really luscious centres. And then, however much you pay, you won't find *better* chocolates than Black Magic. This is because Rowntrees put all the value into the *chocolates*, packing them simply, but elegantly, in a smart black box.

2.  
Saw him hanging about the quad, but when I went down he said, "Fancy meeting you!" Of course I didn't let him know I'd seen him writing. But today he came clean and sent me a box of heavenly Black Magic chocolates—oh, those centres! I think anyone who chooses Black Magic must be nice, don't you, so



MADE BY ROWNTREES



## Source 7

*Rowntree's Guard Book B13, Summary of Campaign, 1934*

### S U M M A R Y O F C A M P A I G N

SCHEDULE NO: 34/BM

PRODUCT: Black Magic

PERIOD: 12 weeks (October 4th - December 28th)

COVERAGE: National

MEDIA: 5 National Dailies  
15 Provincial Dailies

INSERTIONS  
& SIZES 5 - 11" x 2)  
3 - 8" x 3 ) 3 National Dailies  
1 - 6" x 4 )

5 - 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 2 Daily Mirror  
3 - 5:1/16" x 3 " Sketch

5 - 11" x 2)  
2 - 8" x 3 ) 15 Provincials  
1 - 6" x 4 )

FREQUENCY: Weekly - 5 National Dailies, 15 Provincials

DAYS: Thursday, Friday, Saturday - Nationals and Provincials

APPEAL: Primarily to women. Copy in the form of an open letter written by an attractive girl provokes curiosity to read. Snob appeal and romantic situation combined cause reader to think Black Magic are the "smart" chocolates to eat and the kind to persuade her men friends to buy her. The description of the extra delicious centres provides factual basis for her choice.

Appeal to men is first aroused by the sketch of the woman, while the copy implies that men who give Black Magic show superior taste and are consequently more favoured by women.

Appetite appeal is introduced for the purpose of those buying Black Magic for their own consumption by a "mouth-watering" description of an individual chocolate - one of the twelve special flavours.



A P.S. at the end of the copy gives still further factual basis for the romantic appeal - it states that 3,000 people in a test proved the superiority of Black Magic Chocolates over other more expensive kinds. Their low price is explained by the simplicity of Black Magic boxes.

LAYOUTS:


In all advertisements. Half-tone blocks of a woman writing a letter with man in background. From washdrawings. Half-tone blocks of part of a box of Black Magic Chocolates and an individual chocolate. From washdrawings.






**Source 8**

*Rowntree's Guard Book H33, 'Gumster Signs,' 1958/9*

# Are you using your Gumster sign?




5 to 15 minutes	
<b>Junior Gumster</b>	
15 to 25 minutes	
<b>Senior Gumster</b>	
25 to 35 minutes	
<b>Expert Gumster</b>	
35 to 45 minutes	
<b>Master Gumster</b>	
45 to 60 minutes	
<b>Champion Gumster</b>	
over 60 minutes	
<b>GUMSTER-IN-CHIEF</b>	

When you meet other Rowntree Gumsters, use your special Gumster sign! Then you can quickly recognise each other's rank: Senior, Expert, and so on.

If you're not a Gumster yet, buy a 3d. tube of Rowntree's Fruit Gums. See how long you can make one of the Gums last. If it's more than five minutes, you automatically become a Rowntree Gumster, privileged to use one of the special signs shown here. And then you can practise for Gumster promotion! You'll save pocket money too—for there's no longer-lasting 3d. worth than a tube of

3d





## Source 9

Rowntree's Guard Book H33, 'Sir Lastalot and the Knights of Rowntree's Table,' late 1960s

Advertisement

# SIR LASTALOT & YE KNIGHTS OF YE ROWNTREE'S TABLE

**LO AND BEHOLD!**  
DOUGHTY  
**SIR LASTALOT**  
AND **GRINNE**  
HATH TAKEN  
HORSE INTO THE  
WEIRD WILDERNESS  
OF THE GUMLESS HILLS  
WHEREIN DWELLETH  
ALL MANNER OF  
STRANGE CREATURES

THIS IS A GOODLY  
PLACE TO CAMP,  
**SIR LASTALOT** —  
PEACEFUL.

WHERE'S  
THE SUN  
GONE?

'TIS AN  
**EARTHQUAKE!**

**MP!**

YEA, **GRINNE**. VERILY, 'TIS PLEASANT  
TO LEAVE THE HURLY-BURLY OF  
**GUMALOT**, AND HAVE A HOLIDAY!

'T WAS  
TERRIBLE  
TERENCE,  
THE TWO-HEADED  
TITAN!

YOU CAN NEVER GO  
ON HOLIDAY WITHOUT  
MEETING **SOMEONE**  
YOU KNOW!

FEARLESSLY THEY FOLLOW  
THE FEROCIOUS FOE! ...

QUIETLY NOW, **GRINNE** —  
METHINKS THE ORRID OGRE  
IS BEHIND YON  
MOUNTAIN

NAY, MY LORD!  
THE OGRE **IS** THE  
MOUNTAIN!  
HE'S SEEN  
US!

A TOOTH-SOME  
MORSEL, EGAD!

NOT MUCH **MEAT**  
ON 'IM, ...

CHAIN-MAIL,  
THOUGH. **CHEWY!**

**ROWNTREE'S  
FRUIT GUMS**

AND

**THE FOUR MINUTE SMILE!!**

THERE'S ONLY  
ONE WAY  
OUT OF THIS!

HE'S STILL  
SMILING,  
MY LORD!

YES, **GRINNE**.  
IF **TWO HEADS**  
ARE BETTER  
THAN ONE...

... HE MUST BE  
**TWICE AS HAPPY!**

THIS TIME IT'S  
THE **EIGHT MINUTE  
SMILE!**

SO THE OGRE'S  
WON OVER

YES, MY LORD...  
... BUT HE'LL  
ALWAYS BE  
**TWO-FACED!!**

ANYWAY —  
THANK  
GOODNESS

**THEY'RE THE  
LONGEST LASTING  
FRUIT GUMS  
IN THE WORLD!**

**Rowntree's Fruit Gums**







## Source 10

Rowntree's Guard Book H31, 'What is a Boy?' late 1950s

Product: **Fruit Gums.**  
Film No: **FBU/3/60.**  
Length: **30 seconds.**  
Treatment: **Live Action.**

Title of Commercial: **What is a Boy? (BOY)**  
Stations Transmitting: **London, Midlands, Lancs/Yorks, Scotland, Wales and West, Southern, Tyne-Tees.**  
First Transmission: **19.2.60.**



**ROWNTREE'S FRUIT GUMS**  
**T.V. Film**

The commercial explains the use of the product as a natural part of a boy's everyday life.

**Vision:** Titling on first shot: 'What is a Boy?' A boy is playing in a field. He imagines himself as Wyatt Earp and Robin Hood, and is shown leading his own gang through the woods. He hands Fruit Gums to his friends and is seen enjoying one himself.

**Sound:** **MALE VOICE:** What is a Boy?  
**KID'S VOICE:** I'm a boy. I'm anything I want to be....

.... I'm Wyatt Earp ....

.... I'm Robin Hood I am.

I'm the leader of my gang.

We like sweets, we like a lot of sweets. That's why we like Rowntree's Fruit Gums.

You get a lot for 3d.  
You can make them last and last.

.... yes .... for hours .... for ages .... a long, long time. That's why....

I don't forget my Fruit Gums.



**Source 11**

*Rowntree's Guard Book AB12, 'Pick the Fruity Flavours,' 1970*

**“ PICK THE  
FRUITY FLAVOURS...  
WITH YOUR  
EYES SHUT ”**

IS THE THEME OF THE  
SPARKLING NEW T.V. CAMPAIGN - IN COLOUR



FOR  
**ROWNTREE'S  
FRUIT PASTILLES**

6 spots each week from 7th June to 31st July.  
PICK UP LOTS OF EXTRA SALES  
STOCK UP AND DISPLAY - NOW!

Rowntree



## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

For each advert:

- 1) Who is this advert aimed at? How can you tell?
- 2) What is this advert emphasizing about the product?
- 3) What words and images does this advert use to persuade the consumer to buy the product?
- 4) What does the advert imply about the consumer?
- 5) Does this advert look similar to adverts today? How is it different? In what ways is it the similar?

General questions:

- 1) Do you recognize any of these adverts? Are any of the same ideas, images, or campaigns still used today? What's different about them?
- 2) How do these adverts change dependent on audience?
- 3) Which advert do you think would be the most effective? Why?
- 4) Sources 10 and 11 are television adverts, while the rest are all print adverts. What different strategies do they use? Do you think any of the print adverts would make successful television adverts?
- 5) Source 4, 5, and 6 are part of the Black Magic 'letters campaign' that continued for nearly forty years. Can you think of any other long-running advert series? Do you think long-running adverts are more successful? Why do you think this campaign was so successful?
- 6) Source 7 explains the reasoning behind the Black Magic adverts shown in this resource pack. Write a similar summary for either the cocoa or the Fruit Pastilles and Fruit Gums adverts.
- 7) Design your own advert for one of these three products following the styles shown above.