DROOLZ DELIVERS NEW DELIGHT!

Tremendous excitement washed over the town of Grays-on-Shins this week while queues formed for miles. Roads in and out of the centre were blocked for hours as a new product was released by Droolz. It is the first new treat in over a decade from the famous confectionery company.

Droolz was one of the most popular brands in the area during the 1990s but recently stopped producing new ideas. Only last year, Brenda Tremble said, "We are closed for business. The production line at Droolz has dried up."

Just what changed in the meantime, remains a mystery. Mrs Tremble is still at the helm, and she certainly seemed in much better spirits at the launch. She spoke at length from the chocolate podium, made especially for the event, but finished by saying, "Once again, Droolz is at the forefront of confectionery design. Our new chocolate, designed to actually help you lose weight, will revolutionise the industry. As our famous chairman once said, 'If you're not dribbling, it's not a Droolz.'"

Retailing at £3.50 for a small bar, the new ChocoLighter bar isn't cheap. The first impressions from the waiting crowd weren't entirely positive either. One customer, who wished to remain anonymous, described the taste as something similar to out-of-date milk that'd been left on a hot windowsill. Another said that the texture reminded her of the time she once accidentally ate tree-bark. Unfortunately, by the time this reporter made it to the store, they had sold out.

The taste and texture aren't the only issues this exciting new product is facing. Weeks before its release, scientists from the local university cast doubt on its weight-loss efficiency. Professor P. Lum told us: "Our investigation found that the most common ingredient in the bar is actually helium. You won't lose any weight at all by eating this bar, but the gas may well make you lighter for a while." She went on to raise concerns about the effects of consuming too many bars in one go.

"Our colleague, Professor Dirigible, ate seventeen of the bars to see what happened. Unfortunately, he became lighter than air and floated out of an open window. He was last spotted drifting over the M25 towards Slough. We urge people to keep an eye out for him. His name and address are sewn into his lab coat. We'd be grateful if you could return him."

So, will the first new product from Droolz be a weight-loss hit or a helium-filled miss? Only time will tell. If you were lucky enough to sample one of the new chocolate bars this week, get in touch and tell us your experience.

SUMMARY FOCUS

1. Write a one sentence summary of the first paragraph.

2. What happened after a scientist ate a lot of the new chocolate?

3. What is the main piece of news in the article?

4. Which happened first, the scientists trying the chocolate or it being released? How do you know?

5. Find the paragraph that begins: "Retailing at £3.50…". Summarise this paragraph in one sentence.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V Find a synonym for "selling" in the text.

R When was Droolz a popular brand?

P What might have happened in the last year to give the company new ideas?

E The final paragraph starts with a rhetorical question. Why has the reporter ended with this?

V Write a definition for "forefront".

Answers:

1. People were excited at the launch of a new chocolate product. (Accept similar sentences)

2. He floated away through an open window

3. A new product has been launched for the first time in a long while. (Do not accept answers referring to the scientist or tasters being the main point)

4. The scientists trying the chocolate. It says "Weeks before its release…"

5. Most people who have tried the bar didn't like it. (Accept similar sentences)

V: Retailing

R: The 1990s

P: They employed new people/new techniques became available/weight-loss became popular again/accept answers that link to the text

E: It leaves the reader asking the question and concludes the point of the article

V: In the lead or at the head of something