

Monologue Mania!

“Ban on Gum” from *Ups and Downs*

By Rebecca Wright

TEACHER PERSPECTIVE

Perspective Two: You are a teacher who is terrified that the school where you teach is going to lift the ban on chewing gum. Do they have any idea how awful that would be?

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TEACHER:

So the buzz on the street is that the new administration is thinking about lifting the ban on chewing gum here at our school. What principal would ever think that allowing gum in school is a good idea? Do you know how many books will have pages stuck together with gum? Or seat and desks that will have gum stuck to the bottom? We have some of that now, and we don't even allow gum in the building. It will be a free-for-all. Do they really think the “no blowing bubbles” clause is going to work? How am I going to be able to police that? I can't investigate every little pop I hear. How am I going to teach while the kids are popping their gum and blowing bubbles the size of their faces? It will be impossible! And what about the time I'm going to have to take to get the gum out of their hair and their clothes? Ugh! And those sticky, little hands! They won't keep the gum in their mouths, even if there is a clause that says they have to. They will be pulling on it like a piece of taffy. This is just a nightmare. I may have to transfer schools. Surely, there are other schools smart enough to keep gum out of the hands of little children! If I had my way, kids wouldn't be able to chew gum until they graduate from high school. Maybe even college! I know that we try to be a school that encourages children to make their own smart decisions, but this is just asking for trouble. They're still *kids*. How can we be smart enough to take soda and candy out of our vending machines, but give them little gum hand grenades?!