

The Chocolates Game



A CARD GAME FOR TEENS AND YOUNG
ADULTS ABOUT APPROPRIATE SOCIAL
RESPONSES...
EVEN IN TRICKY SITUATIONS!

“Box of Chocolates” Game

In the film, *Forrest Gump*, Sally Field’s character says “Life was like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re gonna get.” As adults with a mature set of experiences, we know how very true that statement is! Young adults with social skill deficits frequently find themselves uncertain of how to provide appropriate verbal responses and how to problem-solve situations to create mutually beneficial solutions.

The Box of Chocolates Game allows students to practice appropriate verbal responses and mutually-beneficial problem solving for 100 different real-world scenarios they are likely to face as young adults and adults in a fun, card-game format.

Instructions for Printing and Preparing the Game

- Print out the game cards onto cardstock using a color printer.
- Cut out the candy-shaped cards. Set aside the instructions for play and the scoring rubric.
- Using a pen or other writing implement that won’t soak through the cardstock, label the backs of 100 of the candy-shaped cards from 1-100. You will have extra cards to set aside for use as future replacement cards in the event of lost or damaged cards.
- From your own supplies, gather a pen/pencil and pad of paper that the judge can use to keep score. Alternatively, keep score on the whiteboard or on a document projected onto your media screen.

How to Play the Game

Objective: The person who has the greatest number of points (see scoring rubric) at the end of the game (when all the chocolates have been “eaten”) is the winner.

Players: 1 judge and 2-6 players (if players are paired or grouped, you could easily play with a larger group)

Recommended Ages: suitable for grades 9-12, young adults. Scenarios would not be pertinent for younger players.

Duration of Game: 45-60 minutes. The game could easily be adapted to take more time (expanding answers or taking multiple responses from each player per scenario) or less time (reducing the number of cards).

Instructions for Play:

1. Each game must have one person who will serve as the judge (preferably the teacher or another adult). That person will abstain from play and will serve as a judge/referee, assigning point values to the players' responses using the scoring rubric.
2. The judge will mix up/shuffle the cards and will spread them out in a single layer on the game table, number-side down.
3. The oldest player goes first. The oldest player will select any of the cards from the table. He/she will turn over the card to reveal the number printed there and will pass the card to the judge. The judge will read the scenario from the Scenario Guide that corresponds with the number printed on the underside of the card. The person who selected the card will then offer a response for how he/she feels a person in that scenario should appropriately respond.
4. The judge and other players will listen to the response. The judge will assign a point value (2, 1, or 0) to the response based on the scoring rubric. The judge will write that score on the score sheet under the name of the appropriate player. The used card will be set aside by the judge; each card will be played once.
5. If the assigned score is a "0," the player to the right of the player who received the "0" will have the opportunity to "steal" the points by responding with a more appropriate answer.
6. Play will continue around the table, clockwise, until all the cards/scenarios have been played.
7. Some of the chocolates will be assigned scenarios that will lead to the player missing a turn. The player's turn will be skipped, and he/she will resume play on his/her next turn.
8. The player who has earned the most points at the end of the game is the winner.

"Box of Chocolates" Response Scoring Rubric

Point Value Assigned to Response	Characteristics of Response
2	The response is thorough, well-reasoned, socially-appropriate, and beneficial/satisfactory for all parties involved in the scenario.
1	The response is partial, shows the emergence of mature reasoning, approaches socially-appropriate behavior, and/or may only benefit some of the parties involved in the scenario.
0	The response is absent or extremely brief, does not show mature reasoning or socially-appropriate behavior, and/or may cause physical or emotional harm to one or more parties involved in the scenario.

"Box of Chocolates" Game Scenarios

1: Your mom wants to get in shape and asks you to go to the gym with her after work. You don't want to do it because you don't think she'll actually stick with it and you're already tired tonight. What should you do?

2: Your friend's mom just passed away. She is visibly upset. What should you do/say?

3: Your significant other has been diagnosed with a serious illness. He is very depressed and scared. What should you say/do?

4: Your significant other is overspending money from your shared bank account. How should you approach him/her to discuss the problem?

5: Your significant other has a cat. You have decided to move in together. You are very allergic to the cat. He/she refuses to consider re-homing the cat. How will you resolve the problem?

6: Your child has gotten in trouble at school for fighting and is facing a day of out-of-school suspension. The other child has been bullying your child (hitting/shoving, saying unkind things, etc...) for several weeks, and the school staff has done little to stop it. What will you say to the school principal to resolve the issue?

7: Your sister has been told by her dentist that she absolutely must stop drinking cola because, if she doesn't, she will likely lose her teeth to damage and will require dentures. At lunch with her, she orders a large cola. What should you do?

8: You love your mom, but she doesn't respect your boundaries. You gave her the garage door code in case of emergencies. Now, she comes and goes from your house frequently, never calling first or announcing her arrival by knocking. You are feeling violated and frustrated. How will you resolve the issue?

9: You are taking a class at the community college. During a class discussion, you got carried away and yelled at your instructor. How will you resolve the issue?

10: On social media, an acquaintance makes a post with which you disagree. You post a comment, stating your disagreement, then become embroiled in an increasingly-angry back-and-forth on the thread. What will you do to de-escalate the situation?

11: Your adult friend is expecting a baby with her husband and has just announced her news to your friend-group. How should you respond?

12: Your boss just told you she thinks you are doing a great job. How should you respond?

13: Your mom is very critical of your weight. At Thanksgiving, she makes a comment about your "love handles." How should you handle the situation?

14: At a get-together of former classmates, a man approaches you, calls you by name, and begins to recall lots of memories involving you--he obviously knows you well. You have absolutely NO IDEA who he is. How should you handle the situation?

15: Your friend is going through a difficult and painful breakup. Meanwhile, you are in the throes of a new romance. What should you say/do when spending time with your friend?

16: While driving, you accidentally rear-end the vehicle in front of you on an icy road. The man driving the car you hit is irate and screaming profanity at you. How should you respond?

17: At the grocery store, you notice a woman with a noticeable handicap struggling to load bags into her car. How should you say/do?

18: Your brother buys you an expensive gift for your birthday--something you've wanted for a long, long time. What should you say/do?

19: At the movies, you notice a family with a tiny baby in the row in front of you. The baby begins to cry, and the parents are unable to get her to stop. The parents make no attempt to remove the baby from the theater, and both of them look exhausted and stressed out. What should you say/do?

20: After a big snowstorm, your neighbor quietly cleans off your car and your driveway early one morning while you are still asleep and doesn't say a word--but you know who did this for you. What should you say/do?

21: Your co-worker with whom you work closely often borrows books from you but does not return them in a timely manner. She notices you reading a new book and asks if she can borrow it when you're done. What should you say/do?

22: Your significant other is obviously upset with you today (he/she is barely speaking to you, staying in another room, avoiding you, etc...). You genuinely have no idea what is going on. How will you resolve the issue?

23: You are at a restaurant. You go to pay the bill and are told by the waiter that someone else has already paid for your dinner as a "pay it forward"/"good deed" action. What should you say/do?

24: At the grocery store, you accidentally drop a glass jar of salsa. It shatters, and salsa goes all over the aisle. What should you do?

25: You're in a very important and formal meeting at work. The key speaker is talking to the group of 10 people. You experience a bathroom emergency that cannot wait. What should you say/do?

26: Your best friend invites you over. He/she cooks your favorite meal and streams the movie that you've been dying to watch, even though it wasn't his/her first choice. What should you say/do?

27: Your child's room is a disgusting mess--like "it smells bad and there are bugs" mess. You have asked him, repeatedly, to clean it up to an acceptable standard, and he hasn't done it. How should you handle the situation?

28: At your new job, you recognize one of your new co-workers as a person you met and had Group with while in the hospital for mental health treatment. So far, you've mostly been avoiding one another, and it's been awkward. What should you say/do with regard to this co-worker?

29: You're in the car with some work or school acquaintances . You farted. It was a "silent but deadly" scenario. The rest of the car has started to notice. What should you say/do?

30: As you wait in line in a store, the person in front of you is sniffing very loudly. It is both disgusting and annoying. What should you say/do?

31: While at work, you notice that you have begun to smell like body odor (you didn't take a shower this morning because you were running late). How will you resolve the situation to get through the rest of the workday?

32: You are out with a group of friends. They want to keep going from place to place and to stay out really late, but you are ready to go home. You all rode together; they are your ride. What should you say/do?

33: You are a guest at your in-laws' house for dinner. Your mother-in-law has served her famous Casserole. You take a bite, and it tastes truly awful. What should you do?

34: You're at the home of a work acquaintance. You use the bathroom and clog the toilet. What should you say/do?

35: You get the flu. Miss your turn.

36: You have a nasty head cold, but today is the day of your son's big soccer game. How will you manage feeling sick but still needing to attend the game?

37: You have overextended yourself. Between working 40 hours per week, taking a needed college course for work training, your daughter's dance classes, your son's baseball games, teaching Sunday school, and the book club you've joined, you are feeling like you're constantly on the run. You must choose a commitment to drop. Which one will you choose, and how should you tell the people in that group that you are no longer able to participate?

38: You have to replace the transmission on your car. Miss your turn.

39: During a stressful evening of working on your child's science fair project, you yell at your child and tell him he's lazy and stupid. This is an isolated incident (as opposed to regular verbal abuse); you normally have a good relationship. What should you say/do to repair the relationship with your child?

40: Your roommate is not pulling her weight around the house. You find yourself doing most of the cleaning, trash-taking-out, lawn-mowing, etc. You've begun to feel resentful. How will you talk to her about the situation?

41: You are shopping for a new car. At the dealership, you recognize that the price of the car is unfairly high. You attempt to negotiate with the salesman, but you are getting nowhere. How should you handle the situation?

42: Your co-worker did most of the work on a project, then put your name on it and gave you co-credit, even though your contribution was minimal. What should you say/do?

43: You've been really busy at work. Your significant other has noticed your stress and has caught up all the laundry in order to take that chore off your to-do list. What should you say/do?

44: You lose your debit card somewhere at the mall. Lose a turn.

45: You get busted picking your nose in the car while stopped at the intersection--in the car next to you sits your neighbor. What should you do?

46: You went on a date with someone. The person was nice enough, but you just didn't feel a "connection." You don't want to go out with him/her again. He/she has just texted you, asking you out on a second date. What should you say/do?

47: You've just found out that your grandmother has dementia and is being placed in a nursing home. Your dad is very, very upset and overwhelmed. What should you say/do?

48: While out shopping, you use your debit card to pay, and you ask for \$20 cash back. The cashier mistakenly gives you \$40. What should you say/do?

49: You misplaced your car keys. Lose a turn.

50: Your cell phone fell in the toilet. Lose a turn.

51: You have gone out to dinner with friends to celebrate your birthday. The waitress overhears that it is your birthday and gives you a free dessert and appetizer. What should you say/do?

52: Your significant other's uncle is a raging racist. He constantly complains about people of other races, tells offensive jokes, and uses racial slurs. At every family gathering, this happens. How will you handle the next gathering?

53. You and your spouse have a new baby. Your mother is thrilled...and has a LOT of opinions. From diapering to feeding to sleeping, Mom has an opinion and is eager to share it with you. How should you handle Mom's suggestions?

54: While at a friend's house, you use the master bathroom because someone else is already using the guest bathroom. You notice several bottles of antidepressant medication on the counter with your friend's name on them. You weren't aware she was having such a hard time. What should you say/do?

55: Your parents are divorced. Each of them is very angry at the other. Both of them are complaining about the other to you. How should you handle the situation?

56: You receive a very, very nice pair of leather boots for Christmas. You return from vacation and run into a friend. She, too, received a pair of boots for Christmas. They aren't as nice as yours, but she is very excited about them. What should you say/do?

57: Your seven-year-old son is having a difficult time with some boys on his basketball team. They have been calling him names and slapping him when the coach isn't looking. He has tried to talk to them himself, but he isn't getting anywhere. How should you handle the situation?

58: Your ten-year-old daughter has baked (with your permission) a batch of brownies. She is excited for you to eat one. You eat one. It's horrible. Your daughter is eager to hear what you think. What do you say/do?

59: You are in the middle of a project at work that requires intense and uninterrupted focus. A co-worker keeps coming by to ask questions or to socialize. What should you say/do?

60: You have been asked by your boss to provide feedback to someone at work who needs to improve her communication and organization skills. You've noticed the issues, too. How should you approach your co-worker in order to help her improve?

61: In class, you notice that one of your female classmates is wearing a pair of white pants...and a pair of flowered underwear (you can see them clearly through the pants). She appears totally unaware of the situation. Some classmates are simply trying to avoid looking at her; others are giggling a bit. What should you say/do?

62: Your new shoes are really uncomfortable. Lose a turn.

63: Freezing rain fell while you were at work, and you don't have an ice scraper in the car. Lose a turn.

- 64: You get the feeling that your boyfriend's/girlfriend's mother doesn't like you very much. What should you say/do?
- 65: You attempted to cut your own bangs. Lose a turn.
- 66: The lady behind you in line at the grocery store tells you that your jacket is very nice and that it looks good on you. What should you say/do?
- 67: You show up at a party wearing the exact same outfit as someone else. What should you say/do?
- 68: You get to work and realize that you have forgotten to brush your teeth today. What should you say/do?
- 69: Your boss approaches you and tells you that your appearance at work is sloppy and must be improved. You need to begin making sure your uniform is clean and unwrinkled, your hair is neatly brushed, and your hands are clean. What should you say/do?
- 70: You didn't repair your always-running toilet. You receive a water bill for \$100 more than usual. Lose a turn.
- 71: Your friend wants to get a puppy. She plans to buy one at the pet store. You know that pet stores often buy from puppy mills and want to encourage her to adopt from a rescue or shelter instead. What should you say/do?
- 72: Your friend just found out he is going to have to get a root canal, and he is very nervous about it. What should you say/do?
- 73: You get a recommendation for a restaurant from a friend. You go there and really enjoy the meal. What should you say/do?
- 74: At Thanksgiving, your preschool-aged nephew has become attached to you at the hip, following you everywhere, physically clinging to you, and talking incessantly. You would really like to talk to some other people. What should you say/do?
- 75: While hosting a family gathering at your house, your aunt spills red soda pop on your living room carpet. What should you say/do?
- 76: You are busy working in the yard on a hot, summer day. Your neighbor brings you a cold bottle of water. What should you say/do?
- 77: Your dad--who is usually a truly horrible cook--invites you over for dinner, and the meal is (surprisingly) fantastic. What should you say/do?

78: You have a headache and are out of ibuprofen. Lose a turn.

79: You took a chance on some questionable leftovers in the fridge. You bargained wrong. Lose a turn.

80: You are late to work because you misunderstood where the group was meeting for an off-site project. Your boss and co-workers are annoyed. What should you say/do?

81: You just asked a pregnant lady at the grocery store "When are you due?" Oops. She isn't pregnant. What should you say/do?

82: At a party of casual acquaintances, a heated political discussion about the upcoming presidential election is underway. People have started to get worked up. Someone asks YOUR opinion. How should you respond?

83: While at the pool with your mom, you notice a suspicious-looking mole on her back that could possibly fit the criteria for melanoma (skin cancer). What should you say/do?

84: You didn't wear sunblock to the pool and are now a human lobster. Lose a turn.

85: You haven't been flossing and are developing early stage periodontal disease. Lose a turn.

86: You did not win the Powerball Lottery. Again. Lose a turn.

87: You bought a shirt at the department store. After wearing and laundering it per the washing instructions one time, it has begun to develop holes along the seams. You want to return the shirt to the store and receive a refund. What should you say/do?

88: You just saw someone sneeze into his hand. He now wants to shake hands with you in greeting. What should you say/do?

89: You haven't been cleaning the hair out of the drain after your shower. You now have a hair clog that requires a call to the plumber. Lose a turn.

90: One of your closest friends has told the rest of your friend group something you told him in confidence. You KNOW it was him; he was the only person you told. How should you handle the situation?

91: You and your significant other have very different needs for affection. You need a lot of hugs to feel loved. He/she prefers to have more personal space. How should you approach him/her to resolve the situation?

92: You are attending church and feel very, very bored. What should you say/do?

93: You are attending a sporting event. The National Anthem begins to play. What is the appropriate response?

94: You are at the movies. You know that you should silence your cell phone, but you must be able to receive calls or texts from your babysitter in case of emergency. What is the best way to handle this?

95: You have allowed your stuffy nose to progress into a nasty sinus infection. Lose a turn.

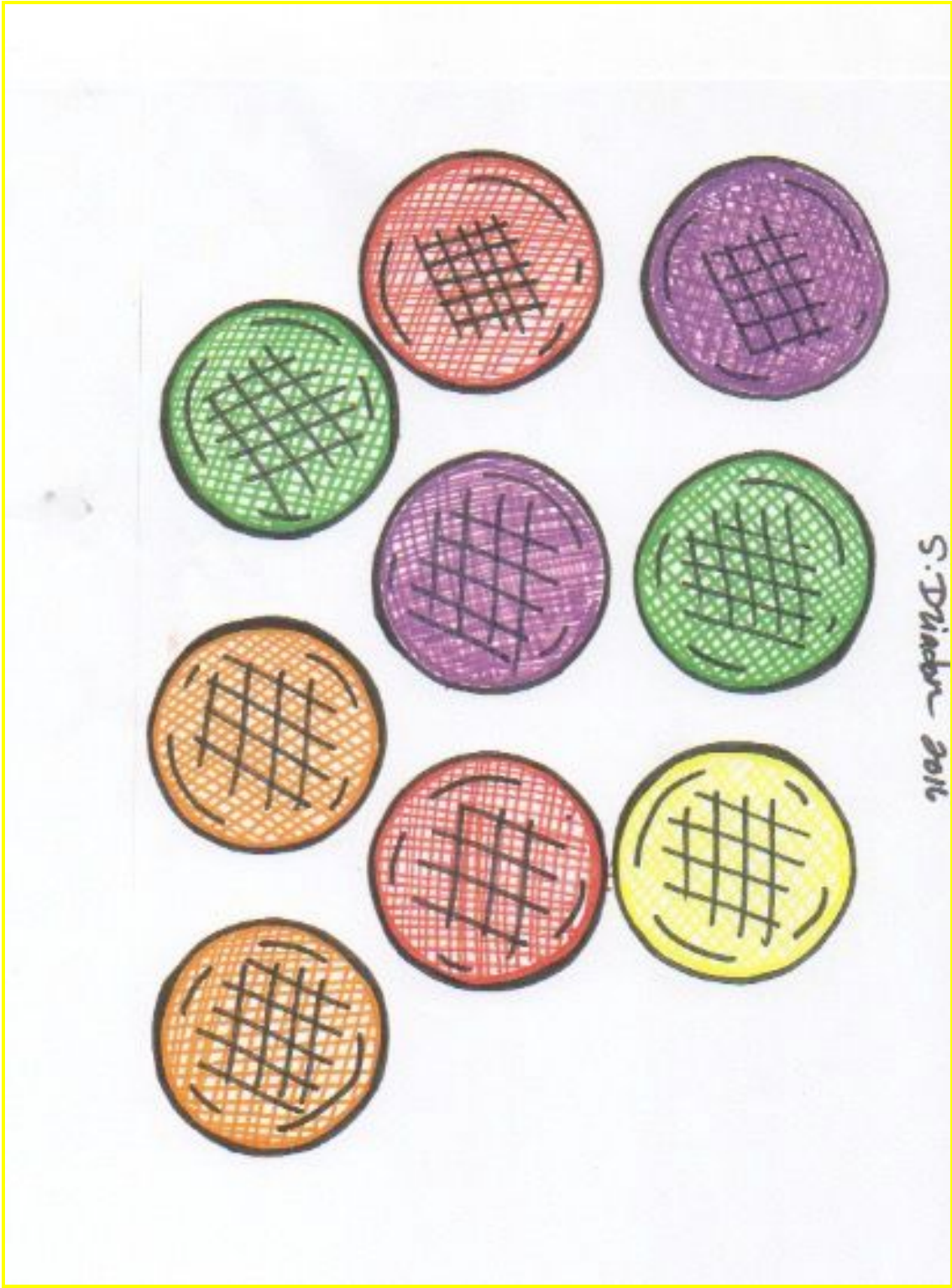
96: You are at a barbecue. You hate "picnic food." The only food available is "picnic food." How should you handle the situation?

97: Your dad shaved off the big, lumberjack beard he has worn for your entire life. You think he looks unattractive. What should you say when he asks you "How do you like it?"

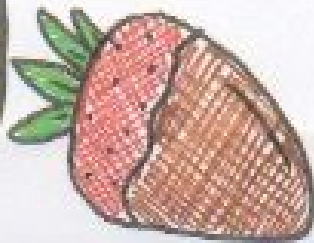
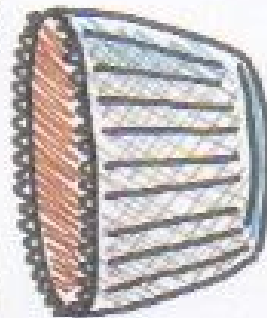
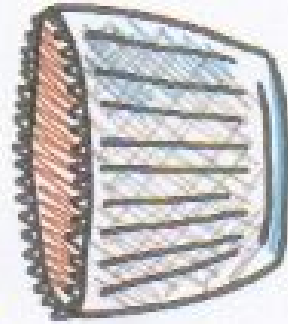
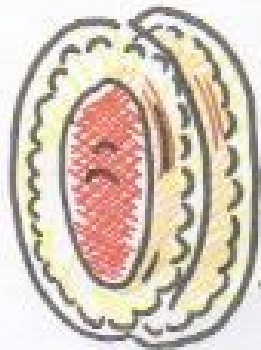
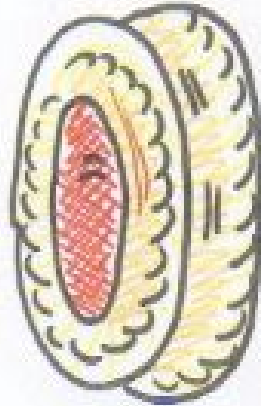
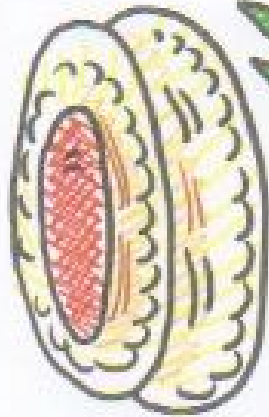
98: While playing soccer, a teammate who has forgotten his water bottle asks if he can have a drink of yours. You really don't like sharing drinks with people; it grosses you out. How should you handle the situation?

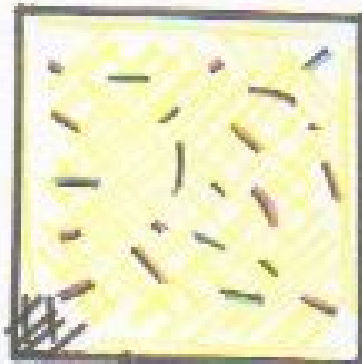
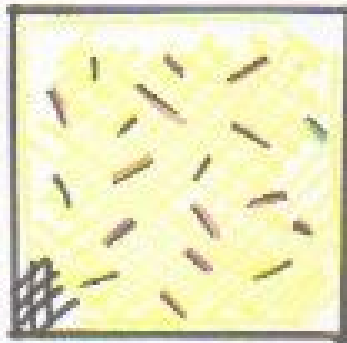
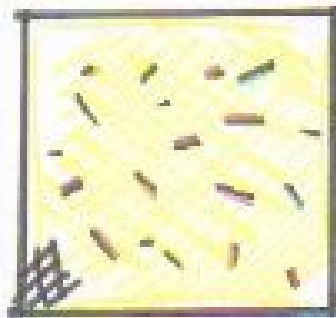
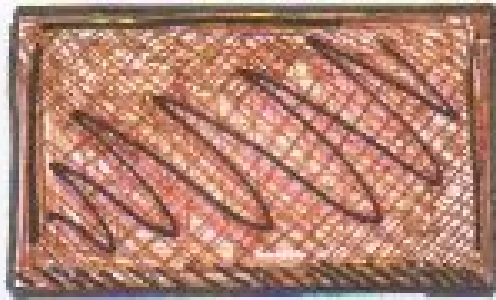
99: You are out at lunch with a close friend. She is obsessively checking her cell phone and not paying attention to you. How should you handle the situation?

100: You have struck up a conversation with someone in your Spanish class. You feel like the two of you have really hit it off, and you'd like to get to know the person better. What should you say/do?

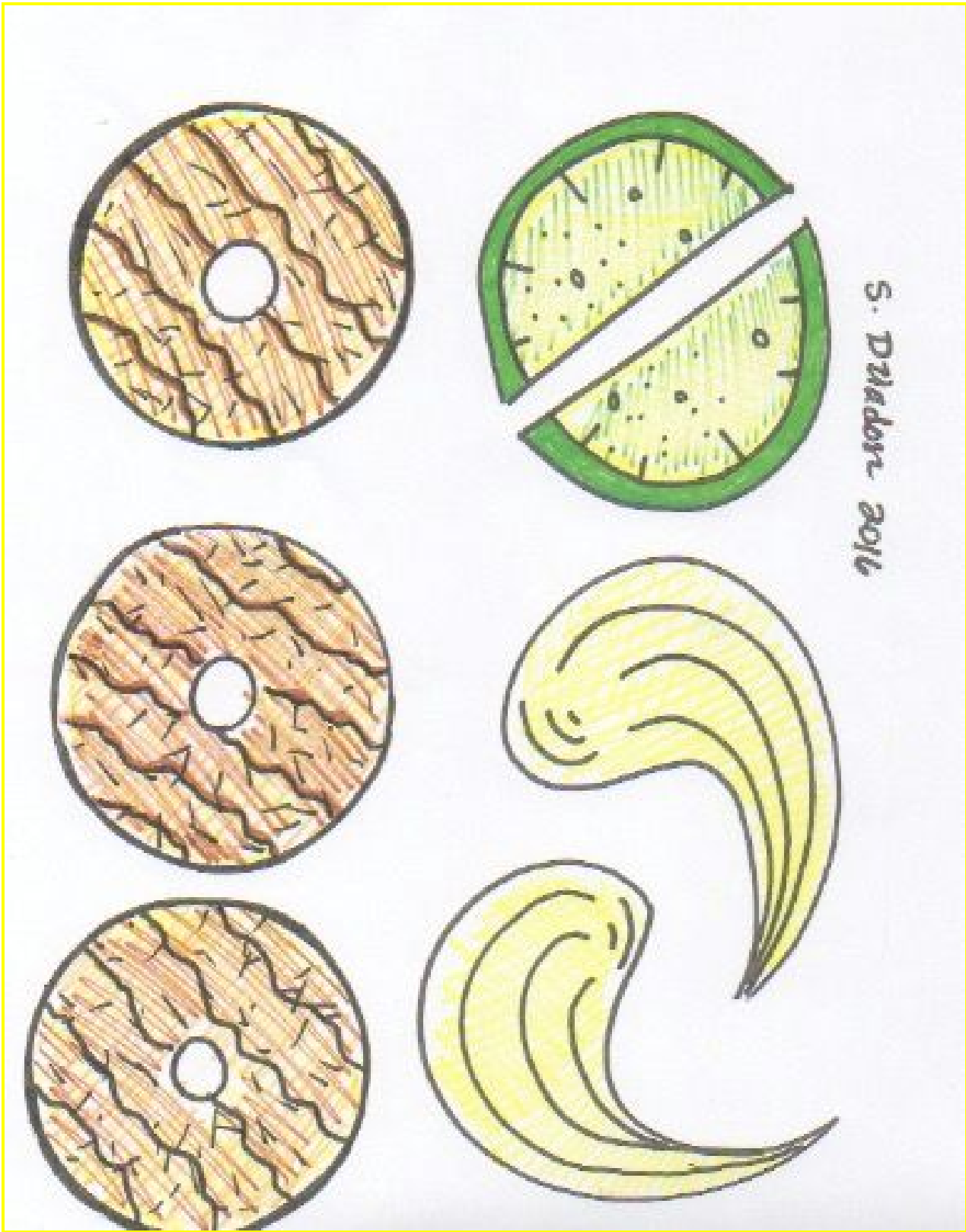


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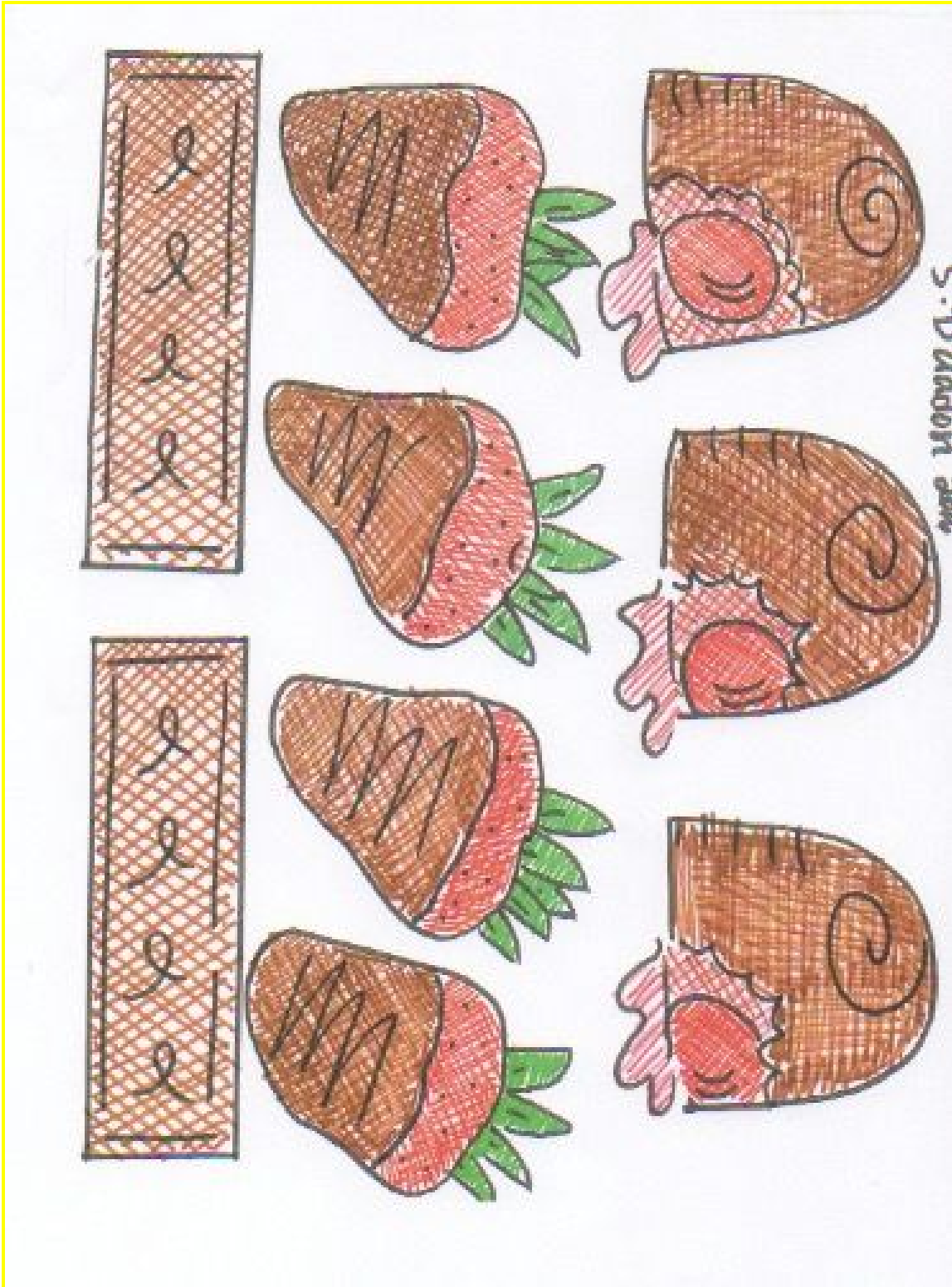


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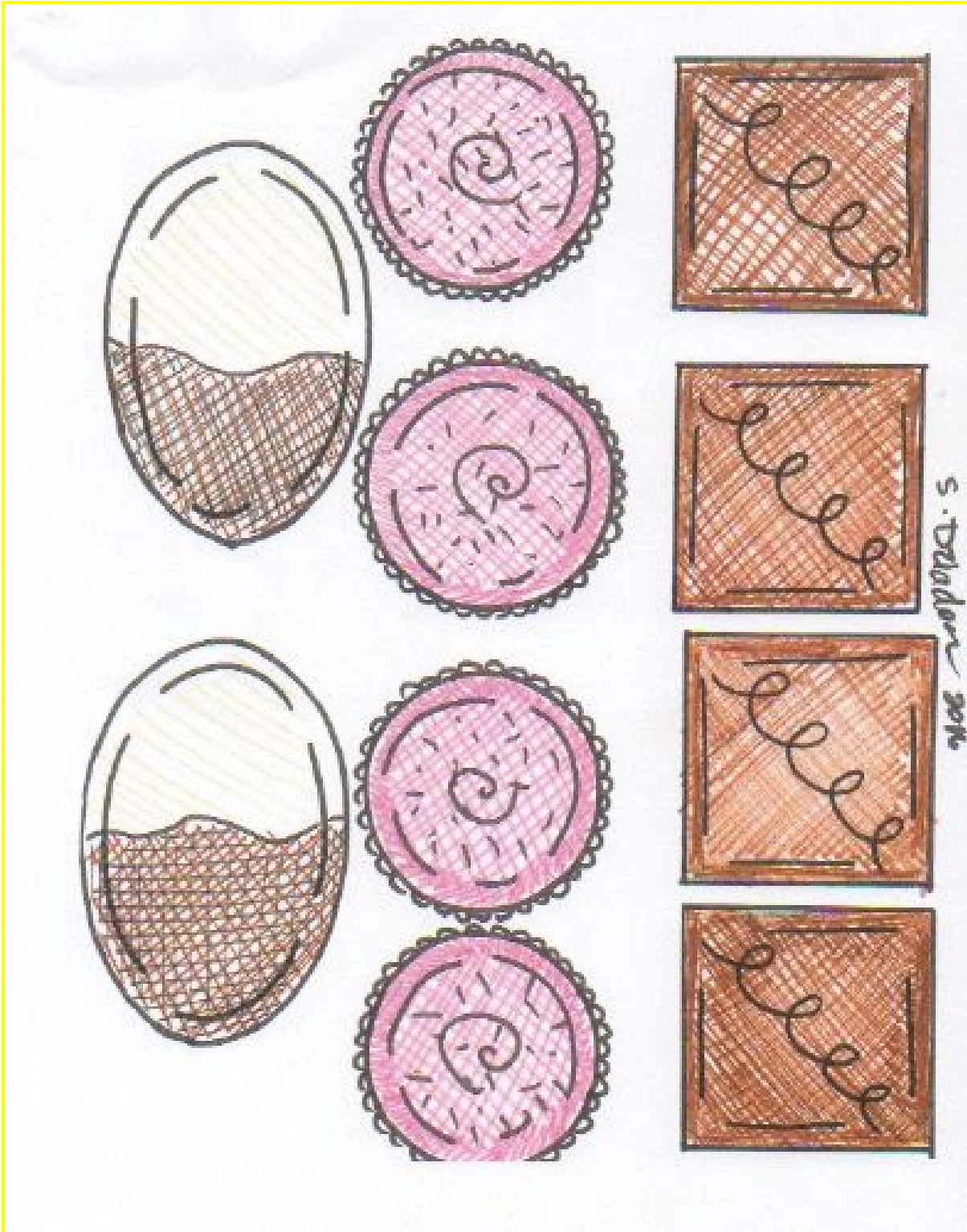


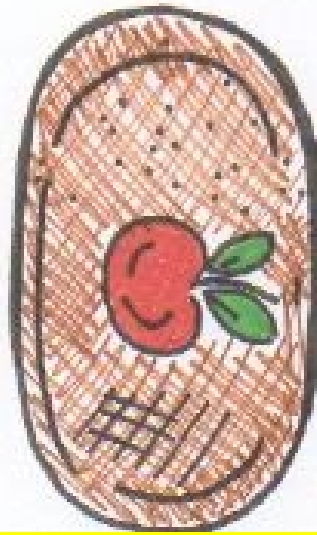
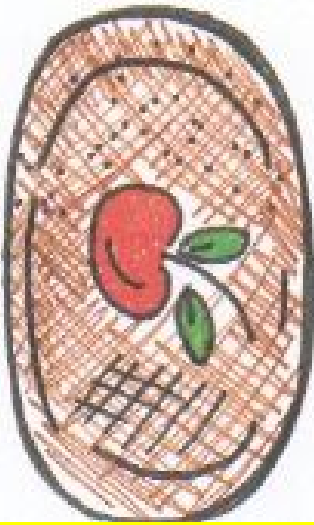
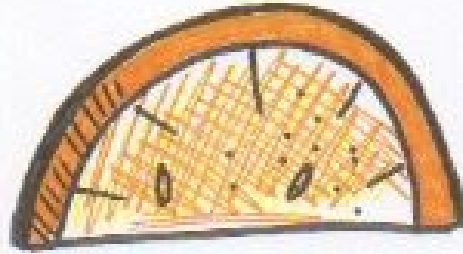
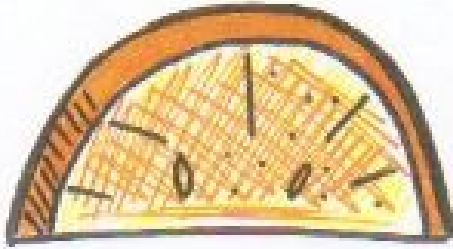
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