

the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more

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## The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More: An Enchanting Collection of Tales

The wonderful story of Henry Sugar and six more is a captivating compilation of stories written by the celebrated author Roald Dahl. Known for his imaginative plots, memorable characters, and masterful storytelling, Dahl's collection offers readers a delightful journey through worlds filled with magic, adventure, and moral lessons. This collection not only entertains but also encourages readers to reflect on themes such as kindness, courage, and the power of the human mind.

## Overview of Roald Dahl's Collection

### Who Was Roald Dahl?

Roald Dahl (1916–1990) was a British novelist, short story writer, poet, and screenwriter. His works have become classics of children's literature, but they also appeal to adult readers. Dahl's stories often blend dark humor with whimsical fantasy, making his books timeless and universally loved.

### The Inspiration Behind the Collection

The stories in this collection were inspired by Dahl's fascination with human potential, the supernatural, and his love for storytelling that challenges conventional morals. The stories often feature protagonists who discover extraordinary abilities or face extraordinary circumstances, encouraging readers to think

beyond the ordinary.

## **Summary of the Stories in the Collection**

### **1. The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar**

This story introduces Henry Sugar, a wealthy man who learns about a Tibetan yogi who can see without using his eyes. Intrigued by the yogi's abilities, Henry seeks to master the skill himself. Through intense meditation and practice, Henry develops the power of clairvoyance, which he initially uses for personal gain but eventually learns valuable lessons about morality and generosity.

### **2. The Boy Who Talked with Animals**

This tale follows a young boy named Peter who discovers he can communicate with animals. As he forms bonds with different creatures, he learns about their lives and struggles, fostering empathy and compassion. The story emphasizes the importance of understanding and respecting other living beings.

### **3. The Hitchhiker**

A suspenseful story about a man who picks up a hitchhiker with a mysterious past. As their journey progresses, strange events unfold, revealing the hitchhiker's supernatural abilities and the consequences of meddling with dark forces. The story explores themes of fate and the unknown.

### **4. The Surgeon**

This story depicts a talented surgeon who, driven by ambition, performs risky operations that have unexpected consequences. It examines the ethical dilemmas faced by medical professionals and the

importance of humility and integrity.

## **5. The Mysterious Stranger**

A story about a mysterious visitor who appears in a small town, offering people a chance to see into their future. The narrative explores human curiosity, greed, and the realization that some truths are better left unknown.

## **6. The Enchanted Forest**

Set in a magical woodland, this tale follows children who stumble upon an enchanted forest filled with talking animals and mystical beings. Their adventure teaches them about bravery, friendship, and respecting nature's wonders.

## **7. The Final Story: A Lesson in Humanity**

The collection concludes with a story emphasizing kindness and the importance of helping others. It features a character who discovers that true happiness comes from selflessness rather than material wealth.

# **Themes and Messages in the Collection**

## **Magic and the Supernatural**

Many stories incorporate elements of magic, such as clairvoyance, communication with animals, and enchanted worlds. These fantastical elements serve to ignite readers' imaginations and highlight the limitless possibilities of the mind.

## **Morality and Ethical Choices**

Throughout the collection, characters face moral dilemmas that challenge their values. Whether it's Henry Sugar's initial greed or the surgeon's hubris, Dahl uses these stories to illustrate the importance of integrity, humility, and compassion.

## **Human Potential and Personal Growth**

A recurring motif is the idea that individuals can develop extraordinary abilities through focus, discipline, and kindness. Stories like Henry Sugar's journey demonstrate that inner strength and moral character are more valuable than material wealth.

## **Humor and Wit**

Despite often exploring serious themes, Dahl's stories are infused with humor, irony, and cleverness. This balance makes the stories engaging and accessible for readers of all ages.

## **Why This Collection Is a Must-Read**

### **For Children and Adults Alike**

Roald Dahl's stories appeal to both young and mature readers, offering layered narratives that can be enjoyed on multiple levels. Children can revel in the fantastical elements, while adults can appreciate the deeper moral lessons.

### **Promotes Imagination and Creativity**

The stories encourage readers to think creatively, imagine magical worlds, and consider the potential within themselves.

## Teaches Valuable Life Lessons

From empathy to humility, the collection imparts lessons that are relevant across all ages, making it an excellent choice for family reading or personal reflection.

## Key Takeaways from the Collection

1. **The Power of the Mind:** Many stories showcase the incredible abilities of the human mind when focused and disciplined.
2. **Morality Matters:** Ethical choices significantly impact characters' lives, emphasizing the importance of kindness and integrity.
3. **Respect for Nature and Others:** Stories like "The Enchanted Forest" highlight the value of compassion for all living things.
4. **Imagination as a Tool for Growth:** Encouraging imagination leads to personal development and a broader understanding of the world.

## Conclusion: The Enduring Charm of Roald Dahl's Tales

The wonderful story of Henry Sugar and six more is more than just a collection of entertaining tales. It is a testament to Roald Dahl's mastery of storytelling, blending magic, morality, and humor into narratives that resonate across generations. Whether exploring the extraordinary powers of the mind or the importance of kindness, each story offers valuable lessons wrapped in delightful adventures.

For readers seeking stories that inspire, challenge, and entertain, this collection remains a timeless treasure. It invites us all to believe in the extraordinary within ourselves and to approach life with curiosity, courage, and compassion. As Dahl himself once said, “A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men.” Dive into these stories and discover the magic that awaits within.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More' about?**

'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More' is a collection of short stories by Roald Dahl, featuring tales that range from fantastical adventures to moral lessons, with the titular story focusing on a man who discovers a way to see without using his eyes.

### **Who is the main character in the story 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar'?**

The main character is Henry Sugar, a wealthy man who learns to develop the ability to see through objects using meditation and concentration, ultimately using his powers for good.

### **Are the stories in this collection suitable for children or adults?**

While Roald Dahl's stories are often enjoyed by children, 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More' contains themes and narratives that appeal to both older children and adults, with some stories exploring moral dilemmas and human nature.

### **What inspired Roald Dahl to write 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar'?**

Roald Dahl was inspired by stories of individuals with extraordinary abilities and his fascination with the power of concentration and meditation, which he explored creatively in the story.

## **Has 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More' been adapted into other media?**

Yes, parts of the collection and the story of Henry Sugar have been adapted into films, short films, and stage productions, highlighting its popularity and enduring appeal.

## **What themes are prominent in the stories of this collection?**

Themes include the power of the mind, moral choices, human curiosity, greed, kindness, and the magical possibilities of ordinary life.

## **Is 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar' based on real events or purely fictional?**

The story is a work of fiction, though it draws inspiration from real-life stories of individuals with extraordinary mental abilities and the concept of self-improvement through focused meditation.

## **Why is 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More' considered a significant work in Roald Dahl's bibliography?**

It showcases Dahl's versatility as a writer, blending elements of fantasy, moral lessons, and psychological insight, and is appreciated for its imaginative storytelling and thought-provoking themes.

## **Additional Resources**

The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More: An In-Depth Exploration

The world of literature is often marked by stories that captivate, inspire, and provoke thought. Among these, Roald Dahl's *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More* stands out as a quintessential collection that showcases the master storyteller's flair for blending whimsy, morality, and the extraordinary. This article aims to provide a comprehensive review and analysis of this remarkable

collection, examining its themes, stories, and enduring appeal through an expert lens.

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## Introduction to the Collection

The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More was first published in 1977, drawing readers into a universe where the boundaries of reality are fluid, and the extraordinary becomes accessible. It comprises seven stories, each distinct yet interconnected by Dahl's signature narrative voice—wry, compassionate, and imbued with a moral undertone.

This collection is notable for its diversity: some stories are playful and humorous, others are contemplative and philosophical, and a few venture into the mystical. Dahl's storytelling prowess lies in his ability to craft tales that are simple enough to entertain children, yet layered enough to resonate with adult readers, making this collection a timeless treasure trove.

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## Overview of the Stories

The collection features seven stories, with the titular Henry Sugar serving as both a central narrative and a thematic anchor. Here's an overview:

### 1. The Boy Who Talked with Animals

A whimsical tale about a boy who can communicate with animals, highlighting themes of empathy and understanding.

### 2. The Hitchhiker



A story blending suspense and humor, examining human nature and the unexpected twists of fate.

### 3. The Great Switcheroo

A humorous and satirical piece about deception and identity.

### 4. The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar

Perhaps the most famous story in the collection, it explores themes of greed, self-discovery, and extraordinary powers.

### 5. The Ace

A story about a young boy's cleverness and bravery in a game of cards, emphasizing resourcefulness.

### 6. The Surgeon

A contemplative story about morality, consequences, and the limits of human compassion.

### 7. The Sound Machine

An imaginative tale about the power of sounds and perceptions, delving into curiosity and obsession.

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## Deep Dive into The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar

As the centerpiece of the collection, the story of Henry Sugar deserves an in-depth exploration.

### Plot Summary and Key Themes

Henry Sugar is a wealthy, self-centered man who stumbles upon a magazine article about a doctor who can see without using his eyes—thanks to a special technique involving concentration and visualization. Intrigued and motivated by greed, Henry embarks on a journey to master this

extraordinary psychic ability, believing it will allow him to cheat at gambling and amass wealth.

However, as Henry progresses, his motivations evolve. He begins to realize that his newfound powers could be used for altruistic purposes—helping others or doing good in the world. The story concludes with Henry choosing to donate much of his wealth and to use his abilities for noble causes, highlighting themes of redemption, moral awakening, and the true meaning of wealth.

Key themes include:

- The corrupting influence of greed versus the redemptive power of altruism.
- The pursuit of extraordinary abilities for selfish versus noble reasons.
- Personal transformation and moral growth.

## Storytelling Techniques and Literary Devices

Dahl employs several masterful techniques in this story:

- First-person narrative: This perspective allows readers to intimately experience Henry's thoughts, doubts, and evolving morality.
- Descriptive detail: Dahl vividly describes Henry's journey into concentration and visualization, making the mystical elements believable and engaging.
- Moral ambiguity: While Henry's initial motives are selfish, his transformation introduces complex moral questions about the use of power.
- Humor and irony: Dahl subtly injects humor, especially in the depiction of Henry's greed and naivety, adding layers to the narrative.

### Impact and Legacy

The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar has inspired many readers to reflect on their own motivations and the potential for personal change. Its themes resonate widely, emphasizing that true richness lies

beyond material wealth, rooted instead in moral integrity and altruism.

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## **Themes Across the Collection**

While each story has its unique flavor, several overarching themes emerge:

### **1. The Power of the Mind and Imagination**

Stories like *Henry Sugar* and *The Sound Machine* explore extraordinary mental or sensory abilities, emphasizing the potential of human imagination and concentration.

### **2. Morality and Ethical Dilemmas**

Dahl often presents characters faced with moral choices—cheating, deception, or kindness—and explores the consequences of their actions.

### **3. Humor and Irony**

A signature of Dahl's style, humor often underpins serious themes, making complex moral messages accessible and engaging.

## 4. The Wonder of the Ordinary

Despite fantastical elements, many stories celebrate everyday intelligence, resourcefulness, and kindness.

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## Artistic and Literary Significance

The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More is more than a collection of entertaining tales. It exemplifies Dahl's ability to blend entertainment with moral lessons, appealing to both children and adults. His storytelling is characterized by:

- Concise, punchy prose: Efficient storytelling that maintains the reader's engagement.
- Vivid imagery: Dahl's descriptive skills create immersive worlds.
- Moral depth: Stories often provoke reflection on human nature and ethics.

Furthermore, Dahl's use of irony and surprise endings keeps readers on their toes, reinforcing the unpredictability of life and morality.

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## Critical Reception and Cultural Impact

Since its publication, the collection has garnered praise for its inventive narratives and moral complexity. Critics have lauded Dahl for his ability to craft stories that are both entertaining and thought-provoking, often emphasizing the stories' subtle messages about kindness, self-awareness, and the human potential.

The collection has also influenced adaptations, including stage plays and radio dramas, and continues to inspire educators to use Dahl's stories as tools for teaching ethics and imagination.

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## **Conclusion: Why Henry Sugar and Six More Remains a Classic**

The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More exemplifies Roald Dahl's mastery in storytelling—a blend of humor, morality, and imagination that transcends age. Its stories challenge readers to consider the power of the mind, the importance of kindness, and the potential for change within us all.

Whether you're seeking entertainment, moral reflection, or simply an escape into extraordinary worlds, this collection offers rich, layered narratives that reward repeated reading. Its enduring relevance and universal themes ensure that Henry Sugar and Six More remains a treasured addition to any literary collection, inspiring generations to look beyond the surface and discover the wondrous possibilities within themselves.

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In summary:

- A masterful collection blending humor, morality, and imagination.
- Features seven diverse stories with interconnected themes.
- Celebrates the potential of the human mind and the importance of moral growth.
- Endures as a classic, inspiring readers of all ages to embrace kindness, curiosity, and self-improvement.

If you're exploring Dahl's works or seeking stories that entertain while offering moral insights, Henry Sugar and Six More is an essential read—an invitation to marvel at the wonder and complexity of human nature.

## **The Wonderful Story Of Henry Sugar And Six More**

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more:** *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar* Roald Dahl, 2000-05-22 Seven superb short stories from the bestselling author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and The BFG! The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar is a Netflix Original film! Meet the boy who can talk to animals and the man who can see with his eyes closed. And find out about the treasure buried deep underground. A clever mix of fact and fiction, this collection also includes how master storyteller Roald Dahl became a writer. With Roald Dahl, you can never be sure where reality ends and fantasy begins. All the tales are entrancing inventions. —Publishers Weekly

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**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more:** **CRASH!** Randy Malamud, 2024-12-12 CRASH! explores the fascinating, revealing, and surprising cultural impact of plane crashes across art, literature, music, media, and creative nonfiction. Plane crashes are covered extensively but they are not analyzed very deeply, beyond rote media reports and forensic accident investigations. This is despite the voluminous, diverse, and fascinating cultural materials - poems and novels, songs, films, art, TV series, and on and on - that emerge in the wake of aviation disasters. Randy Malamud reanimates these tragic events and identifies how they persist and resonate through our culture-more than we might have imagined, and in intricately far-reaching ways. A unique and extraordinarily wide-ranging cultural examination, CRASH! takes the reader on a journey that includes reflections on flight phobia, themes of crash survival (with asides on Lord of the Flies, The Little Prince, and Ernest Hemingway's two-day two-crash adventure), the existentialism of pilots' last words, the day the music died, deep dives into modernist plane wreck paintings, kamikaze pilots and their Zen death poems, plane crashes before planes, 'race, crash, and gender,' and the cultural aftermath of 9/11. Ultimately, Malamud shows that crashes do not bring about complete and total destruction: we accomplish some degree of restoration by shoring fragments against the ruins. The

plane is dead; long live the plane.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more: Roald Dahl's Marvellous Medicine** Tom Solomon, 2016-09-13 Most people know Roald Dahl as a famous write of children's books and adult short stories, but few are aware of his fascination with medicine. Right from his earliest days to the end of his life, Dahl was intrigued by what doctors do, and why they do it. During his lifetime, he and his family suffered some terrible medical tragedies: Dahl nearly died when his fighter plane went down in World War II; his son had severe brain injury in an accident; and his daughter died of measles infection of the brain. But he also had some medical triumphs: he dragged himself back to health after the plane crash, despite a skull fracture, back injuries, and blindness; he was responsible for inventing a medical device (the Wade-Dahl-Till valve) to treat his son's hydrocephalus (water on the brain), and he taught his first wife Patricia to talk again after a devastating stroke. His medical interactions clearly influenced some of his writing - for example the explosive potions in George's Marvellous Medicine. And sometimes his writing impacted on events in his life - for example the research on neuroanatomy he did for his short story William and Mary later helped him design the valve for treating hydrocephalus. In this unique book, Professor Tom Solomon, who looked after Dahl towards the end of his life, examines Dahl's fascination with medicine. Taking examples from Dahl's life, and illustrated with excerpts from his writing, the book uses Dahl's medical interactions as a starting point to explore some extraordinary areas of medical science. Solomon is an award-winning science communicator, and he effortlessly explains the medical concepts underpinning the stories, in language that everyone can understand. The book is also peppered with anecdotes from Dahl's late night hospital discussions with Solomon, which give new insights into this remarkable man's thinking as his life came to an end.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more: Roald Dahl** Ann Alston, Catherine Butler, 2012-11-01 Roald Dahl is one of the world's best-loved authors. More than twenty years after his death, his books are still highly popular with children and have inspired numerous feature films - yet he remains a controversial figure. This volume, the first collection of academic essays ever to be devoted to Dahl's work, brings together a team of well-known scholars of children's literature to explore the man, his books for children, and his complex attitudes towards various key subjects. Including essays on education, crime, Dahl's humour, his long-term collaboration with the artist Quentin Blake, and film adaptations, this fascinating collection offers a unique insight into the writer and his world.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more: Roald Dahl** Jeremy Treglown, 2016-06-28 A New York Times Notable Book: A revealing look at the famous twentieth-century children's author who brought us The BFG and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Few writers have had the enduring cultural influence of Roald Dahl, who inspired generations of loyal readers. Acclaimed biographer Jeremy Treglown cuts no corners in humanizing this longstanding immortal of juvenile fiction. Roald Dahl explores this master of children's literature from childhood—focusing a tight lens on the relationship between Dahl and his mother, who lovingly referred to him as Apple—through to his death. Treglown deftly navigates Dahl's time as a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force, exploring how the experience transformed many of the beliefs that influenced the English writer's work, including The Gremlins, which was commissioned by Walt Disney. A former editor of the Times Literary Supplement, Treglown discusses many of Dahl's most famous works, such as James and the Giant Peach and Fantastic Mr. Fox, while also delving into his marriage to actress Patricia Neal, combing through letters and archives to show a man who could be both comic and vitriolic, thoughtful yet manipulative and irascible. Treglown highlights many of Dahl's literary achievements as well as his breakdowns and shortcomings, presenting a very personal and telling picture of the author and the inner turmoil that crippled him. Separating the man from the myth, Treglown's frank, intimate portrait of Dahl illuminates the contradictions within the mind of this beloved author, a man who could be both a monster and a hero. It is required reading for book lovers and film buffs alike.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more: Wes Anderson** Ian Nathan, 2025-03-04 This new and updated edition covers the full life's work of iconic director Wes Anderson, including

Asteroid City, The French Dispatch, and his collection of four short films for Netflix. Loaded with rich imagery and detailed analysis of his incredible films – including the classics The Grand Budapest Hotel, Rushmore, The Royal Tenenbaums, and The French Dispatch – this is the first book to feature all of Wes Anderson's movies in a single volume. Acclaimed film journalist Ian Nathan provides an intelligent and thoughtful examination of the work of one of contemporary film's greatest visionaries, charting the themes, visuals, and narratives that have come to define Anderson's work and contributed to his films and idiosyncratic character that's adored by his loyal fans. From Anderson's regular cast members – including Bill Murray and Owen Wilson – to his instantly recognisable aesthetic, recurring motifs and scriptwriting processes, this in-depth collection will reveal how Wes Anderson became one of modern cinema's most esteemed and influential directors. Presented in a stunning slipcase, this new edition brings this book right up to date and will continue to delight all Wes Anderson devotees and movie lovers in general.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more:** *Read All about It!* Jim Trelease, 1993-08-01 A treasury of fifty sensational read-aloud pieces for young adults. From Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass to Maniac Magee, sci-fi to op-ed, "Casey at the Bat" to a moving true story about the reunion of two Holocaust survivors, this wonderfully diverse collection of excerpts from newspapers, magazines, and books has been created by Jim Trelease especially to turn young people on to the many pleasures of reading. Here are thought-provoking columns from Mike Royko and Pete Hamill; excerpts from classics like To Kill a Mockingbird and "Rikki-tikki-tavi"; autobiographical sketches by Maya Angelou, Moss Hart, and others, highlighting the importance of reading in their lives; and much more. With selections representing many different cultures, genres, writing styles, and interests, Read All About It! is a wonderful introduction to the riches of literature and to a lifetime of reading.

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**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more:** *The Facts on File Companion to the British Short Story* Andrew Maunder, 2007 A comprehensive reference to short fiction from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Commonwealth. With approximately 450 entries, this A-to-Z guide explores the literary contributions of such writers as Joseph Conrad, James Joyce, D H Lawrence, Rudyard Kipling, Oscar Wilde, Katherine Mansfield, Martin Amis, and others.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more:** *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* John Clute, John Grant, 1999-03-15 Like its companion volume, The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, this massive reference of 4,000 entries covers all aspects of fantasy, from literature to art.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more:** *National Union Catalog*, 1980 Includes entries for maps and atlases.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more:** *The Wes Anderson Collection: The Grand Budapest Hotel* Matt Zoller Seitz, 2015-02-10 This companion to the New York Times bestselling book The Wes Anderson Collection takes readers behind the scenes of the Oscar®-winning film The Grand Budapest Hotel with a series of interviews between writer/director



Wes Anderson and movie/television critic Matt Zoller Seitz. Learn all about the film's conception, hear personal anecdotes from the set, and explore the wide variety of sources that inspired the screenplay and imagery—from author Stefan Zweig to filmmaker Ernst Lubitsch to photochrom landscapes of turn-of-the-century Middle Europe. Also inside are interviews with costume designer Milena Canonero, composer Alexandre Desplat, lead actor Ralph Fiennes, production designer Adam Stockhausen, and cinematographer Robert Yeoman; essays by film critics Ali Arian and Steven Boone, film theorist and historian David Bordwell, music critic Olivia Collette, and style and costume consultant Christopher Lavery; and an introduction by playwright Anne Washburn. Previously unpublished production photos, artwork, and ephemera illustrate each essay and interview. The Wes Anderson Collection: The Grand Budapest Hotel stays true to Seitz's previous book on Anderson's first seven feature films, *The Wes Anderson Collection*, with an artful, meticulous design and playful, original illustrations that capture the spirit of Anderson's inimitable aesthetic. Together, they offer a complete overview of Anderson's filmography to date. Praise for the film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*: Four Academy Awards®, including Costume Design, Music - Original Score, and Production Design; Nine Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture, Directing, and Writing - Original Screenplay; Best Film - Musical or Comedy, Golden Globe Awards; Best Original Screenplay, BAFTA, WGA, NYFCC, and LAFA Awards Praise for the book, *The Wes Anderson Collection*: "The Wes Anderson Collection comes as close as a book can to reading like a Wes Anderson film. The design is meticulously crafted, with gorgeous full-page photos and touches . . ." —Eric Thurm, *The A.V. Club* Also available from Matt Zoller Seitz: *Mad Men Carousel*, *The Oliver Stone Experience*, *The Wes Anderson Collection: Bad Dads*, and *The Wes Anderson Collection*.

**the wonderful story of henry sugar and six more: Children's Books in Print** R R Bowker Publishing, Bowker, 1999-12

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