

Trick or Treat Solution

The first step is to solve the 18 crossword clues. Each answer is a candy. The numbers in the parentheses represent the length of the word(s).

4.7 Gelatin malware (5,4)	GUMMY BEAR
4.3 Chomp (6)	CRUNCH
6.3 Sherlocks (8)	SMARTIES
6.7 Laughter (8)	SNICKERS
3.7 Eminems (1,3,2)	M AND MS
3.3 Bad dentist (10)	JAWBREAKER
2.7 Mouse catcher (3,3)	KIT KAT
9.3 Puzzlers, for example (5)	NERDS
5.3 Arthos, Porthos, Aramis (5,10)	THREE MUSKETEERS
8.3 Points (4)	DOTS
7.3 Atmosphere noggins (3,5)	AIRHEADS
7.7 Slangily jealous pods (5,5)	JELLY BEANS
8.7 Smooches (8,6)	HERSHEYS KISSES
2.3 Fisk (7,4)	SWEDISH FISH
0.7 Happy cowboy (5,7)	JOLLY RANCHER
1.7 Sweet maize (5,4)	CANDY CORN
1.3 ROFL lithium unpush (8)	LOLLIPOP
5.7 Inflatable buoys (10)	LIFESAVERS

From here on is a logic puzzle. We first have to put the candies in the grid. The flavor text clues the following rules:

- Each house (3x3 region) has 2 candies.
- Each row and column has 2 candies.
- No 2 candies are horizontally or vertically adjacent.
- There is no candy in the middle of any house.

This allows us to find the placements of the candies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viC6my8-6PU>

Next, we must actually put the decimal numbers inside the grid. The rules are:

- Each row/column has a .3 and a .7.
- Each house (including the numbers in the middle) must sum to 15.
- The numbers outside the grid represent the sum of an entire column or diagonal.

Here's a video explaining the logic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWb076pBQeo>

The final grid looks like this. The flavor text mentions "certain dextrous". Hidden in those words is INDEX. Therefore, we should index each of the candies by the number in the middle of the house.

1.3				3.7				
	8		8.3	3			4	7.7
5.7						3.3		
	9.3						0.7	
	1			5	2.7		9	5.3
	4.7			7.3				
		2.3				8.7		
	6		1.7	7	6.3		2	
		6.7					4.3	

Here is a table of the indices and the candy names:

G	1	GOBSTOPPER
R	2	CRUNCH
E	7	SMARTIES
E	6	SNICKERS
N	3	MANDMS
B	4	JAWBREAKER
A	5	KITKAT
N	1	NERDS
K	9	THREE MUSKETEERS
T	3	DOTS
E	5	AIRHEADS
L	4	JELLYBEANS
E	2	HERSHEYKISSES
S	6	SWEDISHFISH
C	9	JOLLYRANCHER
O	7	CANDYCORN
P	8	LOLLIPOP
E	8	LIFESAVERS

Reading down the first column, we get GREEN BANK TELESCOPE, the final answer!