

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, by Roald Dahl**

**Lesson 1**

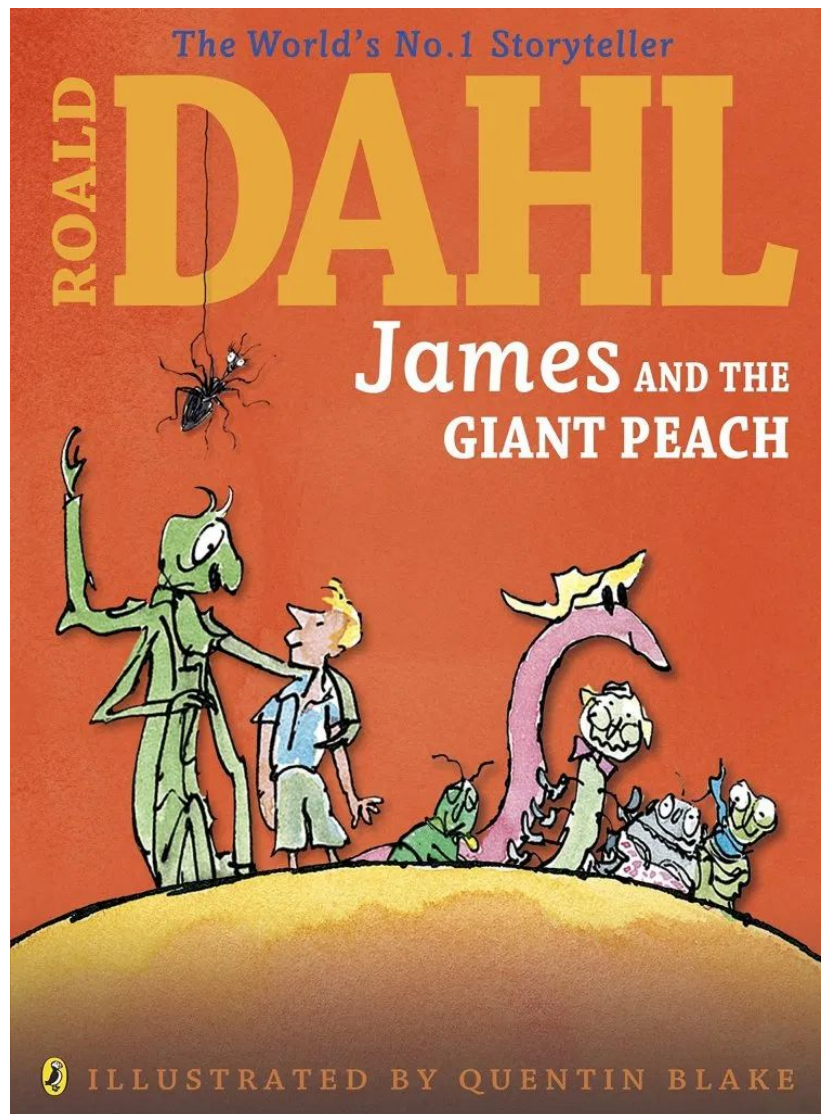
**Before reading...**

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

**Now read the blurb...**

- Were any of your predictions correct?



## **Chapters 1 and 2**

### **V:**

- What is a 'jiffy'?
- Define 'vast'.
- Define 'ramshackle'.
- What does it mean if you do something wistfully?
- Look at the italicised words on the first page of Chapter Two. Why did Dahl choose these words?

### **I:**

- In what ways was James's life perfect?
- In what ways were Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker awful to James?
- Why does James stare wistfully out of the garden?
- Why was it hard for James to chop the wood?
- Why does James start crying?

### **P:**

- Predict if Sponge and Spiker will take James to the seaside. Why do you say this?

### **E:**

- Look at the italicised words on the first page of Chapter Two.
- Why did Dahl choose to italicise these words?
- How do the pictures of Aunt Sponge and Spiker add to meaning?

### **R:**

- When did James's parents die? How did it happen?
- Who did James go to live with? What did he take?
- What was the only thing in the garden?
- What was James doing on the hot day?

### **S:**

- Summarise James in one word and explain your choice of word.

## **Chapters 3 and 4**

### **V:**

- Define 'peculiar'.
- What does 'emerging' mean?
- Define 'luminous'.

### **I:**

- Why was James frightened?
- Why is the man offering James the bag?
- Why do you think the man told James not to tell his aunts?
- Why mustn't James let them escape?

### **P:**

- Predict what James will do with the bag.

### **E:**

- Do you think James should have taken the bag? Why?

### **R:**

- Who comes out of the bushes?
- What did the man take out of his pocket?
- What did the man's breath smell of?
- What was in the bag?

### **S:**

- Summarise how the reader feels after reading these chapters in one word.

## **Chapters 5 and 6**

### **V:**

- What does 'swerved' tell you about James's movements?
- Define 'burrowed'.

### **I:**

- Why did James run back to the house?
- Why did James want to cry?
- Why does Aunt Spiker begin to shout at James?
- Why doesn't Sponge believe there's a peach?
- Why did James think something peculiar was about to happen?

### **P:**

- At the end of Chapter 5, predict what the shout is about.
- Predict if the peach will continue to grow.

### **E:**

- How does the author make you feel sympathy for James?

### **R:**

- Where did James slip and fall?
- What happened to the tiny green things?
- What happens to the peach tree?
- How did the aunts intend to get the peach?
- What is unusual about the peach?

### **S:**

- Describe the peach in one word.

## **Chapters 7 and 8**

### **V:**

- Define 'mammoth'.
- Define 'spellbound'.
- What does it mean when someone's mouth is watering?
- What does it mean to get a glimpse of something?

### **I:**

- Why do they now want to move James away from the tree trunk?
- Why doesn't Spiker want it to fall?
- Why are the aunts dancing around?
- Why are the aunts wary of touching the peach?
- How do you think Spiker intends to make money?
- Why did people pay to see the peach?
- Why didn't the aunts let James stay around the peach?

### **P:**

- Predict if James will go near the peach.

### **E:**

- Do you think the aunts made the right decision to charge people money?

### **R:**

- How big was the peach when it touched the ground?
- Why doesn't Spiker want to eat the peach?
- What did the aunts build to protect the peach?
- How much were the aunts charging?
- What did the aunts send James out to do?

### **S:**

- Summarise the aunts in one word.

## **Chapters 9 and 10**

### **V:**

- Find and copy two words that show you the size of the peach?
- What are dewdrops?

### **I:**

- Why was James frightened?
- What did James assume had made the hole?
- Why did James eat peach as he went?
- Why did James's face go white with horror?

### **P:**

- Predict what James will do when he finds the hole.
- Predict who the speakers are.

### **E:**

- How does Dahl build anticipation in these chapters?

### **R:**

- What time of day is it in Chapter 9?
- How did the peach feel?
- What could James see in the side of the peach?
- What did the hole turn out to be?
- What was in the centre of the peach?

### **S:**

- Summarise how James feels in these chapters in one word.

## **Chapters 11 and 12**

### **V:**

- What does it mean to be reclining?
- Define 'intently'.
- Define 'famished'.
- How is a slither different from a walk?
- Define 'withering'.

### **I:**

- What was terrifying about the creatures?
- When the creatures announce their hunger, why is James scared?
- Why do the creatures laugh at James?
- Why does it take the centipede hours to take off his boots?

### **P:**

- Predict what James and the creatures will get up to.

### **E:**

- What's funny about 'pulling the earthworm's leg'?

### **R:**

- Who was in the peach?
- How big was the grasshopper?
- How many legs does the centipede actually have?
- What does the grasshopper classify himself as?
- How did the creatures end up this way?

### **S:**

- Describe the creatures in one word.
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**HOMEWORK:**

Write a **description** of another **insect** that could be part of the gang. Think about **what they would be called, what they would look like, and how they would behave.**

**OR**

How does Dahl make the **opening** of the story **interesting**?