

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

**Lesson 3**

**Chapters 25 and 26**

**V:**

- Define 'essential'.
- What is 'blushing'?
- Define 'satisfactory'.
- What is 'teetering on the brink'?

**I:**

- Why do earthworms swallow soil?
- Why do people not find spiders useful despite all they do?
- Why does grasshopper start to play the funeral march?
- Why would it be safer to stay outside the peach?

**P:**

- Predict what centipede needs to look out for.

**E:**

- How does Dahl create tension in these chapters?

**R:**

- What has happened to all the soil in a garden?
- What do ladybirds do?
- Can a ladybird change their spots?
- How did centipede fall off the peach?
- Where had centipede fallen?

**S:**

- Summarise how you feel when you are reading these chapters in one word.

## **Chapters 27 and 28**

### **V:**

- What does it mean if something happens gradually?
- Define 'stealthy'.
- What is an imbecile?
- Define 'enthralled'.
- Define 'malevolently'.

### **I:**

- Why did they crouch together?
- Why didn't the ladybird like passing through clouds?
- What do the cloud men control?
- Why did they lie flat on the peach?
- Why is the peach leaking?

### **P:**

- Predict if they can escape from the cloud men.

### **E:**

- How are the cloud men made to be scary in these chapters?

### **R:**

- What was different in travelling via peach versus via aeroplane?
- What were the cloud men doing?
- What had the cloud men been doing?
- What enraged the cloud men?
- What are the cloud men making in Chapter 28?
- What happened when the peach hit the rainbow?
- What stops centipede from being able to see?

### **S:**

- Describe the cloud men in one word.

## **Chapters 29 and 30**

### **V:**

- Define 'wretched'.
- Define 'detest'.
- What does it mean if something is an 'interesting proposal'?
- Define 'immense'.
- What is a deluge?

### **I:**

- Why was centipede having trouble sitting upright?
- What did 'on with the faucets' mean?

### **P:**

- Predict who is shouting.

### **E:**

- How is the weather a main component of these chapters?

### **R:**

- Why did the paint dry so quickly?
- Why does Miss Spider hate paint?
- What does earthworm suggest doing with centipede?
- What does the rain do to centipede?

### **S:**

- Describe the centipede in one word.

## **Chapters 31 and 32**

### **V:**

- Define 'sinister'.
- What is a blizzard?

### **I:**

- Why have the seagulls sped up?
- Why were their bodies cramped?
- How do they know it isn't England?

### **P:**

- Predict what will happen in America.

### **E:**

- How did you feel when you knew they'd reached America?

### **R:**

- How did James know a new day was coming?
- Where are they now?
- How do they intend to lower to the ground?

### **S:**

- Summarise these chapters in one word and explain your choice of word.

## **Chapters 33 and 34**

### **V:**

- Define 'smithereens'.

### **I:**

- Why was it pandemonium in New York?
- Why does it take longer for the peach to sink than it might have previously?
- Why do they assume they are going to die?

### **P:**

- Predict what will happen when the peach reaches the ground.

### **E:**

- How does the cliffhanger here affect the reader?

### **R:**

- Which city have they reached?
- What did the people of New York think the peach was?
- What does centipede want to do before they land?
- Why does the peach end up plummeting towards the ground?

### **S:**

- Summarise the thoughts of each character with a one sentence internal monologue.

## **Chapters 35, 36 and 37**

### **V:**

- Define 'plummeted'.
- What is a squelch? What type of word is this?
- 'Police cars and fire engines came screaming in' – what does the screaming refer to in this phrase?
- What is a commotion?

### **I:**

- Why were people on the street screaming?
- 'The whole city held its breath' – what does this mean?
- How did the people know it wasn't a bomb?

### **P:**

- Predict how the story will end.

### **E:**

- How does the author create humour in these chapters?

### **R:**

- Where did the peach land?
- What things did the people think it might be after realising it wasn't a bomb?
- Name two things they think the centipede is.
- How do the police realise the creatures aren't dangerous?

### **S:**

- Summarise the experience in New York thus far in one word.

## **Chapters 38 and 39**

### **V:**

- Define flabbergasted.
- What is a procession?
- Define 'elegant'.

### **I:**

- Why were they now all considered heroes?
- Why do you think James let her eat some peach?
- Why did everyone become rich?
- Who supposedly wrote the book?

### **P:**

- Predict what would happen in a sequel to this book.

### **E:**

- Did you like this story? Why?

### **R:**

- How long did it take to get down?
- What type of car did James and his friends ride in?
- What does the girl who runs out ask James?
- What was glow-worm's new job?
- Where did James live?

### **S:**

- Summarise how James feels at the end of the story in one word.
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**HOMEWORK:**

Write the **introduction** to a **sequel** to *James and the Giant Peach*.

**OR**

Compare **James** to **Charlie** from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Think about how they are **similar** and **different** to each other.