

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

Based on what you know about magic beans, what do you think will happen next?

- Example answer: Usually something grows from the beans or something good initially happens as a result of the magic but then there is a problem for the character to overcome.

Can you think of any other of Dahl's stories where the character is miserable? What is it that has caused them to feel this way?

- Example answer: In Matilda, the main character has a miserable home life and is bullied. She develops magical powers that makes things better.

p.14 Why do you think James trusts the old man?

- Example answer: James may trust the man because the man says he knows James is miserable. James has only really spent time with his aunts, and can't imagine anyone worse!

What would you have done in James' situation?

- Example answer: I don't know if I would have been brave enough to trust the man. Although he promises things will get better, I know that I should not take things from strangers.

p.16 What clues does Dahl give us about what will happen next?

- Example answer: James thinks, 'What is going to happen in that case if they meet an earthworm? Or a centipede? Or a spider? And what if they get into the roots of the peach tree?'

Chapter 5 What words does Dahl use to show you just how miserable James is?

- Example answer: James felt like crying, slowly, sadly, All hope of a happier life had gone completely now and all the other days would be nothing but pain, punishment, unhappiness and despair.

Deeper Reading

A lot of strange things happen in these chapters. What do you think is the most peculiar?

- Example answer: I think the most peculiar thing that happens is the man appearing out of nowhere. Where has he come from? Where did he go? It's a mystery.

