

# James and the Giant Peach: Activity Plan 1

## Reading Skill:

2a. Give/explain the meaning of words in context.

I can use description to help my understanding.

## Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Beautiful, peacefully, selfish, lazy, cruel, enormous, angry rhinoceros, queer, ramshackle house, terrible punishments, large and desolate, gazing wistfully, blazing hot day, lazy good-for-nothing brute, disgusting little worm.

**Prior Learning:** None.

## Reading Task:

As a group discuss the front cover and the blurb, discussing what the children think the story will be about, what do they think will happen? Read chapters 1 and 2.

## Reading Questions

What clues does the front cover give us about the story?

Who has written this book? Who is the illustrator?

According to the blurb, where do you think the most wonderful and marvellous place might be?

Who is this story about? Can you describe the life of this character?

p.4 How is Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker's garden described?

p.4 How does the author make the reader feel in the final paragraph of chapter 1?

p.5 How are Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker different?

## Deeper Reading:

Are Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker only horrible to James?

What evidence in the chapters supports your answer?

## Related Activities

**Punctuation and Grammar:** Children complete the [Noun Phrases Activity Sheet](#).

**Challenge!** Children explore how nouns phrases can be changed.

**Vocabulary:** Children make a list of interesting vocabulary. These can be words they don't know and need to find out the definition or words that are used well. Children create a 'word cloud' poster for their favourites including a definition and an example of how it is used.

**Challenge!** Children explain why they have chosen the words they have.

**Comprehension:** Children use the blurb and illustrations to create a list of questions they want to answer while reading the book.

**Challenge!** Children explain why not all the information to answer their questions can be found in the blurb. Think about how to encourage people to read the book.

**Create:** Children use the information given in these two chapters to draw Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker.

**Challenge!** Children add labels using quotes from the book.

**Research:** Children research the life of Roald Dahl and create a timeline of events.

**Challenge!** Children consider what changed in Dahl's life and what effect this may have had on his writing.

**Predict:** Children look at the front cover and the blurb. Use the [Predict Activity Sheet](#) to help with this.

**Challenge!** Children predict how the characters might appear in the story.