

# Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

## James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

### Reading Questions and Answers

**p.31 Why does the author describe the smell as 'curious bittersweet'?**

- Example answer: There are several meanings of bittersweet, it could literally be a smell that is bitter and sweet. It is an oxymoron which means there is a contradiction between the two terms.

**Ch.10 Why does Roald Dahl spend a full chapter describing James' crawl to the centre of the peach?**

- Example answer: Roald Dahl takes a full chapter because it's important for setting the scene and helps the reader to get a better perspective about how big the peach is.

**p.36 Why do the creatures use the word "crew" to describe themselves?**

- Example answer: It is almost as if they are referring to the peach as a ship and they are about to set sail on an adventure.

**p.37-39 How are the centipede and earthworm described? Why has the author chosen to do this?**

- Example answer: The centipede is jolly and happy, a bit of a rogue. The earthworm is quite a depressed character. The author may have deliberately done this because they look relatively similar (albeit one has legs).

**Ch.11 Why are some of the words in Chapter 11 in italics? What effect does this create?**

- Example answer: Some of the words are in italics because it adds emphasis to the words, indicating that they are an important element of the story.

**p.39 Why is the centipede proud to be a pest?**

- Example answer: I don't think the centipede is proud of being a pest. I think he says he is so that people won't make fun of him being one.

### Deeper Reading

**What makes James go into the peach? How would his aunts have reacted if they had known what he was doing?**

- Example answer: I think James is curious and this makes him go into the peach. He has spent a very large proportion of his life on top of the hill and is looking for an adventure. His aunts would have been furious and would have blamed James for the hole.

