

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

How do you think James felt when he woke up?

- Example answer: James feels shocked and surprised when he wakes up. He feels like it has been a dream and he is confused and excited.

What words and phrases give the impression that the animals are excited?

- Example answer: The animals are described as excited because excited is used. They also shout and hop up and down.

Explain why the author has begun several words in verse 5 with 'g'.

- Example answer: The author has begun several words with 'g' because some of the animals start with a silent 'g'; the 'g' is never pronounced in these words.

What impression do we get about James' aunts by the way they react?

- Example answer: The impression we are given about James' aunts is that they think only about themselves and they aren't much use in a crisis.

Why is the peach described as a terrible monster?

- Example answer: The peach is described as a terrible monster because it is out of control like a monster, possibly because if the people could see inside and see the insects, they would think they were monsters.

Why does the author use words like 'frantically' and 'panic-stricken' to describe the reaction to the escaped peach?

- Example answer: The author uses words like frantically and panic stricken because these are words that describe people panicking and not knowing what to do because this is something they have never come across before.

Why does the centipede make fun of the aunts being flattened?

- Example answer: The centipede makes fun of the aunts because he has already described himself as a pest; he is blunt and didn't like the aunts.

What ideas do the characters give as to where they are now?

- Example answer: The characters offer a variety of new ideas. They believe they are in the bottom of a coal mine, in the countryside, by the beach, bobbing up and down.

Why do the characters make the suggestions of the "Promised Land" that they do?

- Example answer: The earthworm, who is used to burrowing (and a slightly depressed character), suggests they might be in a coal mine; the grasshopper, who likes music, suggests they are in the middle of a beautiful country full of songs and music; and James wonders if they are near the seashore with lots of children ready to play with him. Each character is suggesting their own dreams and hopes.

Deeper Reading

Do the aunts seem worried about James being missing? What evidence can you find that supports this? (Use all of the book read so far.)

- Example answer: The aunts are more annoyed than worried that he hasn't come back. This is suggested in how they discuss how they will punish him when he does return. Earlier, they had thrown him out into the dark and told him to stay out until he had finished tidying, again clearly implying they aren't concerned for his safety.

