

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

Ch.18 How does the reaction of the characters to their situation fit with how they have been described so far in the book?

- Example answer: The different characters react in the way they have been described so far. James is excited and cries out; the grasshopper tries to downplay the fear; the earthworm is very negative; the rest of the insects follow the lead of the others by starting to panic.

p.60 Why has the author used the word “awkward” to describe the situation?

- Example answer: Due to the type of character he is, the grasshopper would deliberately underplay the situation. Awkward would refer to a minor problem – not the type of problem faced by the characters. This is why the author has used this word.

Ch. 18 and 19 What do these chapters tell us about how the other characters view James?

- Example answer: The characters view him as a problem solver, someone who is clever and can find solutions to their problems.

p.62 Why does the earthworm take offence when James says, “Can’t you see?”

- Example answer: The earthworm is blind and although James uses see to mean realise, the earthworm takes it literally as in related to sight.

p.64 What did the earthworm do when there weren’t any more problems?

- Example answer: The earthworm worries because there aren’t any problems.

Find words or phrases to describe how the characters are feeling in Chapter 19.

- Example answer: The characters are feeling scared. The verb ‘cried’ is used a lot to describe how they are saying things. On page 68, the centipede’s voice is described as a little shaky. The word ‘aghast’ is used on page 70 as well as “panic and pandemonium”.

Deeper Reading

Which of the characters does James get on the best with? Why?

- Example answer: I think that James gets on best with the centipede. Even though the centipede seems to take pride in saying he is a pest, James can see the good in everyone and sees through his bluff.

