

# James and the Giant Peach: Activity Plan 7

## Reading Skill:

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

I can explain what is meant by the words used.

## Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Coaxing, absurd, poppycock, balderdash, martyr, scuttled, exhorting, brute, tethered, harnessed, majestically.

**Prior Learning:** Children will have read up to Chapter 20.

**Reading Task:** Read Chapters 20, 21 and 22.

## Reading Questions

p.71-72 What words tell us that the characters were panicking?

What evidence is there in these chapters that James can solve problems?

p.75 What does 'martyr' mean? Why is it an appropriate choice of word?

p.76-77 Why does the author use words like 'captain' and 'all hands below deck'?

p.79-81 The author uses words like 'begged' and 'wailed' to describe how the earthworm speaks, what does this tell us about his mood?

p.81 Can you think of an alternative word for 'tethered'?

p.82 What sort of atmosphere in the story does the authors use of ellipses create?

p.81 Why does the author use words like hurling and furiously to describe the sharks' reactions? What image does it create?

## Deeper Reading:

What are the reactions of the different characters?

Can you explain why?

## Related Activities

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

**Challenge!** Children try to vary the position of the subordinate clause in their sentences.

**Vocabulary:** Children complete the [Words Ending with -tion Activity Sheet](#).

**Challenge!** Children create a word search of words ending with -tion.

**Comprehension:** Children discuss how the language at the end of Chapter 22 tells us that the plan has been successful?

**Challenge!** Can children add to this description?

**Debate:** Children debate which of the characters is the hero of the chapter. They take each of the characters and create an argument about why that character is the hero.

**Challenge!** Children choose a more complex character, e.g. the centipede.

**Retell:** Children orally retell James' plan, adding actions if they wish.

**Challenge!** Can the children begin to create a play script of the plan?

**Research:** Children research silkworm thread and spider web. Which is the strongest. How strong are they?

**Challenge!** Children investigate different ways to make thread stronger, e.g. plaiting versus twisting.