

James and the Giant Peach: Activity Plan 9

Reading Skill:

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

I can explain how the author has used language for description.

Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Wildly, shriek of terror, frantically, tumbling, crouched, clouds like mountains, eerie, tall, wispy-looking, wraithlike, shadowy, hailstones, frozen with terror, infuriated.

Prior Learning: Children will have read up to Chapter 27.

Reading Task: Read Chapters 26 and 27.

Reading Questions

p.98 What do the words wildly and frantically tell us about the centipede's movements?

p.99 Why does the author choose the adverb 'softly' to describe how the centipede played the Funeral March?

p.101 What do the words mysterious, menacing and overwhelming tell us about the setting?

p.101 Why has the word eerie been used to describe the light of the moon?

p.102 What is the effect of the repeated s sound in '...ah yes... the peach was a soft stealthy traveller'?

p.103 How are the Cloud-Men described? What sort of impression do the words give us?

Deeper Reading:

The earthworm says that he 'really did love that little boy'. What evidence do we have to support this?

Related Activities

Punctuation and Grammar: Children complete the [Causal Conjunctions Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children explain what has happened so far in the story, including sentences containing causal conjunctions.

Vocabulary: Children identify the different prepositions used to describe in these chapters.

Challenge! Children sort the prepositions they have found into time, cause and place.

Comprehension: What clue are we given that the Cloud-Men are not deaf? Children discuss in groups.

Challenge! Children consider why the centipede would say they were deaf.

Imagine: Children imagine what other tasks could the Cloud-Men perform. Children discuss within their group and draw a diagram.

Challenge! Children write an explanation text about the task the Cloud-Men do.

Perform: Children act out the interaction between the characters on the peach and the Cloud-Men.

Challenge! Children consider what movements the Cloud-Men will make linked to their descriptions.

Draw: Children use the description to create a collage of the Cloud-Men. Thinking about what material might be best to use to represent them.

Challenge! Children label collages with description from the text.