

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

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

- Example answer: The use of these words tells us that he was panicking and trying to stop himself which resulted in him reacting in a hurried or confused manner.

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

- Example answer: The adverb softly is used to show he is playing it as a mark of respect. People often talk in hushed voices at funerals as a mark of respect.

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

- Example answer: These words tell us that this setting was one that none of the characters had experienced before. Therefore, it is full of mystery and is a little overwhelming for them to take it. Because it is strange, it could be perceived as being dangerous and menacing.

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

- Example answer: The moon doesn't emit its own light; it reflects that of the sun. Therefore, it is not as bright and can create odd illusions. The eerie atmosphere is created because the characters are seeing similar things differently.

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

- Example answer: The repeated 's' sound represents the sound of the peach gliding through the air.

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

- Example answer: The Cloud-Men are described as tall, wispy looking things, twice the height of ordinary men. Not easy to see at first because they are almost the same colour as the clouds. Tall, wispy, wraithlike, shadowy, white creatures who looked as though they were made out of a mixture of cotton wool and candy floss and thin white hairs.

Deeper Reading

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

- Example answer: There is lots of evidence to support how the creatures treat James and refer to him as a leader. The positive way in which the other characters talk and listen to him and the nice things they say also tells us that they really did love the little boy.

