

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

p.110 What different descriptions are given for the rainbow by the different characters?

- Example answer: The characters are unsure about what the arch is and offer various suggestions about what it could be including: a bridge, an enormous hoop cut in half and a giant horseshoe standing upside down.

p.110-111 What words highlight the difference between the speed of the peach travelling and the speed at which the Cloud-Men are working?

- Example answer: The way the peach travels is described as floating and it is silent all around them. The Cloud-Men are described as working in a frenzy of speed.

p.114-115 Explain how they manage to escape.

- Example answer: The ropes tethered to the seagulls become tangled with the ropes of the rainbow and one of the Cloud-Men attempts to climb down one of the ropes. James tells the centipede to bite through the string. This causes the seagull to fly away carrying the Cloud-Man. The other Cloud-Men are so surprised that they let go of the ropes holding the rainbow which frees the peach.

p.116 What sort of objects do the Cloud-Men throw at the peach?

- Example answer: The Cloud-Men throw lots of very random things including: empty paint buckets, paint brushes, stepladders, stools, saucepans, frying pans, rotten eggs, dead rats, bottles of hair-oil and purple paint.

p.117 How did the centipede dry so quickly?

- Example answer: The paint was special rainbow paint which dries very quickly.

p.119 Can you summarise the different solutions the characters come up with to free the centipede?

- Example answer: The characters come up with lots of different solutions about how to free the centipede. The grasshopper suggests peeling him like a banana; the ladybird suggests rubbing him with sandpaper. Initially, the earthworm suggests leaving him and using him as a bird-bath but then suggests turning him inside out by his tongue.

p.120 How is the rain made?

- Example answer: In the story, a black cloud appears and the characters hear a Cloud-Man shout, "On with the faucets!" The underneath of the cloud appears to split and burst open like a paper bag and out comes a lot of water.

Ch.31 Can you list all the different types of weather the characters see being made?

- Example answer: Apart from rainbows and rain, the characters also see snow, thunder, frost, wind and cyclones and tornadoes being made.

Deeper Reading

p.125 What do you think the 'grey bat-like creature' is?

- Example answer: I think that the creature isn't as scary as we might think. I think because it is grey and not black that it is the start of dawn.

