

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

p.126 Look for examples of similes; how does their use add meaning to the description?

- Example answer: 'The cars were like little beetles crawling along the streets' is an example of a simile on page 126. It helps the reader to picture in a more precise way the image the author is trying to create.

p.126 What words are used to describe the city? What sort of image do they create?

- Example answer: Words like tremendous, vast and skyscraper are used to describe the city. This gives the impression of a giant city. One on a huge scale that the characters had not experienced before.

p.127 Why does the ladybird say, "Ask James"?

- Example answer: The ladybird says, "Ask James" because the insects have grown to rely on James to be the problem solver of the group.

p.127 What words describe the atmosphere below the peach?

- Example answer: Words like pandemonium are used and air raid sirens are described as wailing.

p.127 Look for examples of metaphors; how does their use add meaning to the description?

- Example answer: The example of a metaphor is the peach being described as a monster hovering above them.

p.131 Why does the author repeatedly use the verb 'cried'?

- Example answer: I think the author repeatedly uses the verb cried to show that everyone is doing the same thing.

p.131-132 How does the author create an atmosphere of fear in these pages?

- Example answer: The author's description of the peach falling is frightening, as is the reaction of the people on the ground. They are described as praying aloud and people start turning and saying goodbye to each other.

Deeper Reading

What clues are there in these chapters that show that the setting has changed to America?

- Example answer: The way that the city is described in such a giant size gives us a hint that it is America. Also, the use of some American words, such as subway and Sugar Crisps, gives us further clues.

