

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

p.134 How is the peach described when the people realise it isn't a bomb?

- Example answer: The people attempt to identify the peach when they realise it is not a bomb. They suggest a flying saucer and that it is from outer space, from either Mars or the moon.

p.136 'Vermicious' is a word that Roald Dahl invented. What word type is it? What could it mean?

- Example answer: 'Vermicious' is a not very nice adjective to describe something. It is used with gruesome so must mean something like ugly or scary.

p.138 How does James react to and solve the problem? How is this similar and different to his previous reactions?

- Example answer: James reacts positively to the situation. He speaks cheerily to the people below him and sings them a song telling them why the different creatures are not frightening.

p.144 How has the mood in New York changed? Why?

- Example answer: The mood becomes joyous. The city has a celebratory parade and people are now cheering instead of screaming.

p.147-148 How are each of the characters suited to their new jobs?

- Example answer: The centipede works with shoes and having so many feet he is quite the expert while the glowworm becomes the light inside the Statue of Liberty, as she can light it up. All the characters are able to use their special talents again and do jobs that suit them.

How has James changed during the book?

- Example answer: James has gone from being a lonely and sad boy to being a happy person with lots of friends. At the start of the story, he didn't think he was good at anything as he was constantly being belittled by his aunts but by the end, he is shown he does have his strengths.

Which part of the story was your favourite? Why?

- Example answer: I really liked the part of the story where they were amongst the Cloud-Men. It was a little scary but I enjoyed the way the author used them to create the weather. I thought that the descriptions of how weather was made were very imaginative.

Deeper Reading

What does Roald Dahl think about adults with important jobs? Why is it James who saves the day?

- Example answer: In the story, the chiefs of the emergency services are unable to solve the problem. They argue and worry about who the creatures are rather than just using their common sense they panic. James is the one who saves the day because he is calm and collected. In comparison to the important adults, he would be expected to be the person least likely to solve things. This shows that Roald Dahl is not keen on people in important jobs. He is poking fun at them a little.

