

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

p.19 Why does James say to himself 'Something is about to happen'?

- Example answer: James says this as it reinforces the idea of magic all around, he can feel in the atmosphere that something is about to happen, he feels peculiar.

p.19 What does the sentence 'He could feel it in the air around him...in the sudden stillness that had fallen up on the garden.' mean?

- Example answer: The sentence suggests that the characters in the chapter aren't aware of anything else going on except for what they are witnessing.

p.21-24 What different objects are used as a comparison to describe the growth of the peach?

- Example answer: The objects described are a balloon, a melon, 'twice as big again', 'enormous butter-coloured pumpkin', small car, 'nearly as tall as the tree it was growing on', 'as tall and wide, in fact, as a small house'.

p.22 Why is James described as spellbound?

- Example answer: James is described as spellbound because what is happening is magical, he is transfixed as if by magic.

p.25 Why does Aunt Spiker cry, 'Roll up! Roll up!'?

- Example answer: Aunt Spiker cries 'Roll up! Roll up!' because it is what is said in the circus to get people to buy tickets.

p.27 Why are the helicopters described as wasps?

- Example answer: They are described as wasps because they are flying around and making a similar noise. They could also be described as this because they are also irritating like wasps.

p. 30 What is the effect of 'soft and silver in the moonlight'?

- Example answer: The repeated s sound makes you want to whisper it, a little as if you were in the story.

Whole chapter: Look for words and phrases that suggest Aunt Sponge is greedy.

- Example answer: The chapter describes Aunt Sponge declaring, 'You're making my mouth water on purpose' which suggests she is thinking greedily about food.

Deeper Reading

Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker are very different characters but also very similar. Can you find quotes and descriptions to support this statement?

- Example answer: The two aunts are very different in how they look - Aunt Sponge is fat while Aunt Spiker is very thin. However, they are both very greedy for money and are nasty people.

