

# Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

## James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

### Reading Questions and Answers

**p.71-72** What words tell us that the characters were panicking?

- Example answer: There are lots of words in this chapter that tells us the characters are panicking. These include; 'cried', 'tell us quick, frantically, 'you're mad'.

**What evidence is there in these chapters that James can solve problems?**

- Example answer: James is very good at solving problems. He appears to think logically and takes his time, thinking things through carefully.

**p.75** What does 'martyr' mean? Why is it an appropriate choice of word?

- Example answer: The official definition of martyr is someone who was killed for their beliefs. In this sense, it is someone who has died to save others.

**p.76-77** Why does the author use words like 'captain' and 'all hands below deck'?

- Example answer: The author uses words like captain and all hands below deck because it is continuing the idea of being on a ship.

**p.79-81** The author uses words like 'begged' and 'wailed' to describe how the earthworm speaks, what does this tell us about his mood?

- Example answer: The use of these words tells us that the earthworm was not happy and was very panicked about his role.

**p.81** Can you think of an alternative word for 'tethered'.

- Example answer: Alternative words could include: tied, shackled, harnessed.

**p.81** Why does the author use words like hurling and furiously to describe the sharks reactions? What image does it create?

- Example answer: These words are used because it shows that they started to do things quicker and with more energy, creating an image of a mass of sharks hurling themselves at the peach in desperation.

**p.82** What sort of atmosphere in the story does the authors use of ellipses create?

- Example answer: The author's use of ellipses adds a pause, highlighting that something is happening slowly.

### Deeper Reading

**What are the reactions of the different characters? Can you explain why?**

- Example answer: James seems to be very calm and gets on with his role with the minimum of fuss. We know that he has thought his plan through carefully and thanks to the praise from the other characters seems confident that his plan is going to work.

