

How to print this booklet

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Paper size	US Letter (8.5 × 11 in)
Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
Flip on	Short edge
Scale	100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page”
Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

James and the Giant Peach

Author:

Roald Dahl

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
Created by didtheyreallyread.com

How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

What do you think the peach might represent for James at this point: danger, hope, freedom, or something else? Explain.

Example answer: I think the peach represents hope for James. His life has been lonely and unfair, but the peach is strange and exciting, so it feels like a chance for something new. It might also be a little dangerous because James does not fully understand it yet. Still, I think it gives him a reason to believe his life can change.

Chapter 39

Looking back over the whole book, what message do you think Roald Dahl wants readers to remember about kindness, bravery, or adventure?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

What role does Miss Spider, Ladybug, Glow-worm, or Silkworm play in helping the group so far?

Example answer: Miss Spider helps the group by using her web-making skills. She is useful because she can do things the others cannot do in the same way. I also think she shows that a creature who looks scary can actually be kind and important. Her role helps the group work together better.

Looking back over the whole book, what message do you think Roald Dahl wants readers to remember about kindness, bravery, or adventure?

Example answer: I think Roald Dahl wants readers to remember that kindness can make people feel less alone. James has to be brave many times, but he is stronger when he has friends with him. The adventure shows that scary changes can lead to a better life. To me, the book's message is that courage and friendship can help you escape a bad situation.

Chapter 1

At this point, what do you know about James Henry Trotter’s life, and what detail makes you feel most strongly about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

How does the story balance scary moments with funny or hopeful moments?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

Was there a decision in this chapter that you agreed or disagreed with? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How does Roald Dahl make Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker seem unfair or cruel in the chapter you read?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Which words or descriptions in this chapter help you picture the setting around James?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

What does the chapter suggest about the difference between a real family and people who only share a house?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

How has James changed from the beginning of the book to this point?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

What choice, action, or surprise in this chapter changes James’s situation the most so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

If James could speak honestly to the grown-ups around him right now, what do you think he would say, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

Which part of the chapter would make the best illustration, and what details would you include?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

What would you ask James if you could interview him after this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

What is one strange or magical detail you noticed, and how does it affect the mood of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

How are James’s feelings changing so far, and what evidence from the text shows that change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

How does the author use size—tiny insects, a giant peach, or huge dangers—to make the adventure more interesting?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

Find a moment when a character uses quick thinking. What was the problem, and why was the idea clever?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What do you think the peach might represent for James at this point: danger, hope, freedom, or something else? Explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Choose one important descriptive word from this chapter. What does it mean, and why do you think Dahl chose it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

What lesson about judging others by their appearance could a reader take from the insect characters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Which character’s point of view do you understand best right now, and what helped you understand it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

How does the chapter build suspense or make you want to keep reading?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Which character seems to have the most power in this part of the story, and how do they use it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

What is one example of teamwork in this chapter, and why could no one character solve the problem alone?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

How does Dahl make an impossible event seem exciting or believable enough for the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What problem is James facing now, and what possible solution can you imagine?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

When Dahl uses humor in this chapter, what makes it funny: exaggeration, silly language, odd behavior, or something else?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

What moment in this chapter shows courage, even if the character is scared?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What prediction can you make about where the peach will go next or how James will solve the current problem?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Describe one way the story feels like a fairy tale or fantasy so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What is something James learns about the peach, the insects, or his world in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How does the setting inside or around the giant peach affect what the characters can do?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What role does Miss Spider, Ladybug, Glow-worm, or Silkworm play in helping the group so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Pick one of James’s insect companions you have met so far. What personality traits does that character show?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How do the creatures James meets treat him differently from Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

How does the Old-Green-Grasshopper help create a calmer or wiser feeling in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What do you notice about Earthworm’s fears or complaints, and do you think they are reasonable?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What does this chapter show about friendship or teamwork?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What new danger, worry, or challenge appears in this chapter, and how do the characters respond?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

How does Centipede’s personality affect the group in the part you read?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
