



**Extensive
reading**



Roald Dahl

This is Roald Dahl. He is a writer. He is the author of amazing stories: *James and the giant peach*, *The Big Friendly Giant* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



Before you read



Watch the video about the film *James and the giant peach*. Complete the sentences with the words from the box.



1. The story is about a _____
His name is James.
2. An old man gives him a _____
present.
3. The magic makes a giant _____
4. James meets enormous _____
inside the peach.
5. Together, they have fantastic _____



adventures
magical
peach
boy
insects

Meet the characters.



James



Spider



Ladybug



Centipede



Aunt Spiker and
Aunt Sponge



James and the giant Peach

James Henry Trotter is a little English boy. After a terrible accident in London Zoo, he becomes¹ an orphan². He lives in a small house with his horrible aunts, Sponge and Spiker.

Aunt Spiker is tall and very thin and Aunt Sponge is fat and very short.

- 4 They are both³ ugly and lazy⁴. They are also very cruel: they never call James by his name, they often beat⁵ him and they force him to work... James hasn't got any friends to play with and he feels sad and lonely.

One day, a peculiar⁶ thing happens. An old man appears in the garden of the house and shows James a little paper bag. Inside it there are lots of
10 little green things. The man says that if James listens to them, something magical happens.

"Here! Take the bag! It's yours!" says the old man. "Follow my instructions, and fantastic things will happen⁷ to you."

- James runs back to the house but he drops⁸ the bag and the little magic
15 things disappear into the ground, near an old peach tree. James feels sad. Very, very sad.

But then, he feels that something peculiar is going to happen.

"Sponge, come here and look at this," shouts Aunt Spiker.

"At what??" answers Aunt Sponge.

- 20 "Look at the peach tree! There's a peach!" insists Aunt Spiker.

"No way! This tree is very old and never has peaches on it," says Aunt Sponge.

The peach starts to grow⁹ bigger and bigger and bigger. As big as the house! It is now a perfect giant peach.

Word Check

- ¹ becomes – torna-se;
² orphan – órfão;
³ both – ambos;
⁴ lazy – preguiçosos;
⁵ beat – bater;
⁶ peculiar – estranho;
⁷ will happen – acontecerá;
⁸ drops – deixa cair;
⁹ grow – crescer



I understand!

A. Underline the wrong word and write a correct one.

1. Sponge and Spiker are nice. _____
2. Aunt Sponge is tall and fat. _____
3. The man gives James a bag with little yellow things. _____
4. The lemon tree is very old. _____



Lots of people want to see the giant peach, and greedy¹⁰ Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge think that they can get rich. They build a fence¹¹ around the giant peach and start to sell tickets so people can see it. James stays in his bedroom, hungry and alone.

One night James escapes from his bedroom and goes outside to see the peach. Again, James knows that something peculiar is about to happen¹². He climbs¹³ the fence and touches the peach. It is soft and warm¹⁴. There is a large hole in the peach. It looks like a tunnel!!!

James goes through the hole and finds the centre of the gigantic fruit. Inside the peach there are some talking¹⁵ insects: a spider, a centipede, a ladybug, an earthworm, a grasshopper, a silkworm...

"Can you help me with my boots, James?" asks the centipede. "I always need hours to take my boots off!"

"Of course," says James. "You have many boots!"

"That's because I have many feet! One hundred, to be exact."



Word Check

¹⁰ greedy – ganancioso;

¹¹ fence – cerca;

¹² about to happen – presas a acontecer;

¹³ climbs – trepa;

¹⁴ warm – quente;

¹⁵ talking – que falam



I understand!

II. Read the sentences and write T (True) or F (False).

1. James escapes from the attic.
2. There is a tunnel in the peach.
3. There are insects inside the peach.
4. The earthworm has got a hundred boots.



James looks up and sees a gigantic fly without wings – a glow worm¹⁶. This bright green creature lights the room and welcomes James. And they all go to sleep...

The next day, James and his new friends begin a peculiar journey¹⁷. Who knows where it ends...

The centipede cuts the peach from the tree and it starts rolling¹⁸ down over the fence, over Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker and away from the house. Faster and faster it goes over the road, and the houses... Then, it falls down... down... down. SMACK!!!

It stops in the middle of the sea. In the ocean, there are many hungry sharks that want to eat the peach (and all those creatures inside it). But James has an idea!

Miss Spider starts making strings¹⁹ and the friends fasten²⁰ them to... five hundred and two seagulls²¹!! The seagulls start to fly, and the peach goes up in the air. The peach flies across the Atlantic Ocean, until finally they see... A city! There are cars and people in the streets and tall buildings everywhere.

It must be America!!!

Word Check

- ¹⁶ glow-worm – pitirampo;
- ¹⁷ journey – viagem;
- ¹⁸ rolling – a rolar;
- ¹⁹ strings – fios;
- ²⁰ fasten – apertar / atar;
- ²¹ seagulls – gaivotas



I understand!

C. Put the letters in the right order to make a word.

1. The glow-worm lights the OMRO. _____
2. The TIDECENPE cuts the peach from the tree. _____
3. There are many sharks in the ANCEO. _____
4. In New York City, there are tall DINUILBGS. _____



They decide to cut the strings, one by one, and start going down slowly to New York City. Slowly and gently²²... But a plane flies above them and cuts the strings. The peach begins to fall down quickly. Faster and faster it falls. Down and down and down it goes.

- 44 "Help!" cries the Centipede.
"Save us!" cries Miss Spider.
"This is the end!" cries the Old Green Grasshopper.
"Goodbye," cries James. "Close your eyes!"
Suddenly²³, there it is! The top of the Empire State Building... and the
- 46 peach stops safely on top of it.
Lots of people come to see the giant peach on top of the building. James explains the situation to the police officers and firefighters, and five minutes later they bring the peach down. And suddenly... everyone from the peach is a hero. The city even prepares a big party for them! And then a very peculiar
- 20 thing happens.
"Oh, James, James! May I have a piece of your peach?" asks a little girl.
"Help yourself!" James shouts back. "Eat all you want."
"Can we have some, too?" ask fifty other children.
"Of course you can," James answers. "Everyone can have some!"
- 25 The children immediately jump onto the giant peach, eating and eating...
At the end of the party, there's only the big brown stone²⁴ in the middle...



Word Check

- ²² gently – suavemente;
- ²³ suddenly – de repente;
- ²⁴ help yourself – serve-se;
- ²⁵ stone – carozo



I understand

D. Circle the correct word to complete the sentences.

1. The seagull / plane cuts the strings.
2. The peach lands under / on top of the Empire State Building.
3. When they land, there are firefighters / postmen and police officers.
4. The children / insects eat the peach.



This stone is now a famous monument in Central Park. James lives inside it and many children come to visit him and listen to his stories. James, the sad and lonely²⁴ boy, has all the friends in the world!

- And because many children ask him to tell the story of his adventures in the peach, he decided to write them in a book. This is it!

The End

Word Check

²⁴ lonely – solitario



After you read

Order the sentences.

- James lives in Central Park and has got a lot of friends.
- Magic happens: a peach grows and becomes giant.
- The giant peach lands in New York City and children eat it.
- James lives with Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge. He is very unhappy.
- Inside the peach, James finds some insects. They're his friends.
- The peach rolls away from the house and flies to America.

Complete the crosswords with words in the story.

Across

- Insect that has got many feet.
- Tall and thin aunt.
- Sea animal that wants to eat the peach.

Down

- Little boy, the main character.
- Giant fruit.
- Insect that makes the strings.
- Short and fat aunt.

