

Teacher Guide

Grades 3–4

James and the Giant Peach

Roald Dahl



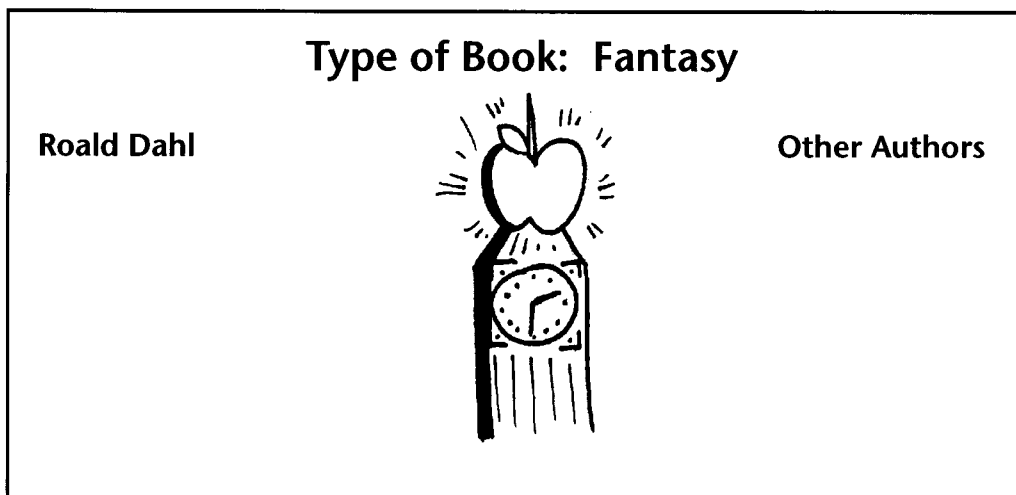
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Bulletin Board Idea

Cover the bulletin board with plain background paper. Divide the space into three sections. Make a picture of a large peach speared on a spike that is actually a TV antenna atop a large building. Place the picture in the center section of the board.

As the unit progresses, ask student volunteers to write brief summaries of books that are fantasies and to place the summaries on the bulletin board. Place all of those authored by Roald Dahl in one section of the board.



Initiating Activities

Make some banners to place in the room to encourage the creative use of imagination. For example: Be Inventive! Originality Counts! You Are Talented! Clever!

Look at the picture in the center of the bulletin board. How do you imagine the peach got on top of the building? (You may want to make an audio tape of student responses.)

Prereading Activity

What do you think of when you see/hear the word FANTASY? (Record student responses.)

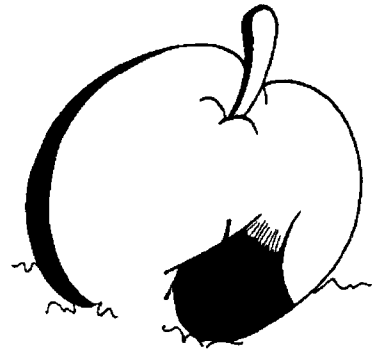
Prereading Discussion

What kind of story do you think this will be? On what do you base your opinion? What books have you read which fit into the category of FANTASY? List. What do you like/dislike about FANTASY? Discuss.

Section 4

Chapter 8 through Chapter 10, pages 20 through 26

The peach gets as large as a small house. The aunts have a fence built around the peach and charge admission to sightseers. James is locked in his room, and only let out at night so that he can clean up after the crowd. When close to the peach, James sees a hole in it, near the bottom. Crawling into the peach, James discovers a tunnel that leads to a room in the stone. When James enters the room, a voice welcomes him.



Vocabulary

marvel p. 20

miraculous p. 21

bittersweet p. 25

stone p. 25

shilling p. 20

murky p. 25

uphill p. 25

bolt p. 25

seething p. 21

curious p. 25

gigantic p. 25

Vocabulary Activity

In a tongue twister, use the vocabulary words MARVEL, MIRACULOUS, and MURKY, and other words that begin with the same letter/sound. Try to say the tongue twister three times without making an error. Then try to say it faster and faster. Increase the length of the tongue twister for more of a challenge. For example:

Murky Miraculous Marvels Made Monday Marvelous
Meaningful Murky Miraculous Marvels Made Monday Marvelous
Many Meaningful Murky Miraculous Marvels Made Monday Marvelous

Questions for Discussion

1. What do the aunts do to prepare for the sightseers? (p. 20—The aunts have carpenters build a strong fence around the peach, and they get a large bunch of tickets so they can charge everyone for coming in to see the peach.) What is James allowed to do? (p. 21—Nothing—James is locked in his bedroom, so he will not get in the aunts' way.) Can you think of some additional reasons why the aunts might want to keep James locked in his room? Discuss.

Supplementary Activities

Vocabulary Word Search Puzzle #1

Do the word search. Write down the letters that have not been used, starting at the top and working left to right in each row. Group letters into words to find out what kind of peach is growing on the old tree in the aunts' garden.

Words to Find		M A M M O T H P V T I I D T
MAMMOTH	COMPLICATED	A I C G I S E A E R N E E F
RIDICULOUS	WITHERING	R V R U A X A D N E S T P A
SCARLET	INTENTLY	V B I A R P V D O M P W A N
CURIOUS	FANTASTICALLYMI	E R O S C I E L M E E I R T
PADDLE	RACULOUS	L A O L I U O E O N C T T A
STAMPEDING	UPHILL	O R D I T B L U U D T H N S
STONE	BOLT	U P H I L L L O S O I E S T
GAPE	TREMENDOUS	S C A R L E T E U U N R T I
MARVELOUS	INSPECTING	R I D I C U L O U S G I O C
HEAVE	DEPART	C O M P L I C A T E D N N A
VISIBLE	MARVEL	A R S T A M P E D I N G E L
VENOMOUS	EXTRAORDINARY	I N T E N T L Y M A R V E L
		Y E X T R A O R D I N A R Y

What kind of peach grows on the old tree in the garden?

Some other things to do:

1. Put the words in alphabetical order.
2. Number the words and:
 Define every odd-numbered word.
 Use every even-numbered word in a sentence.

Synonym or Antonym?

For each activity, match the synonym or antonym in the comparison with a listed vocabulary word.

Sample: BETTER is to WORSE as RIGHT is to WRONG.

Vocabulary Review #1

The following vocabulary words are used in this activity:

ramshackle	desolate	peculiar	cautiously
seething	magnificent	disagreeable	scornful
colossal	literally	ghastly	repulsive

1. FIND is to LOSE as _____ is to PLEASANT.
2. WEIRD is to STRANGE as _____ is to DILAPIDATED.
3. SCARED is to FRIGHTENED as _____ is to UNPLEASANT.
4. HERE is to THERE as _____ is to RESPECTFUL.
5. GLAD is to HAPPY as _____ is to SPLENDID.
6. FOOL is to BLOCKHEAD as _____ is to STUPENDOUS.
7. MORE is to LESS as _____ is to FIGURATIVELY.
8. ADMIRE is to DISLIKE as _____ is to NORMAL.
9. BLEAK is to DREARY as _____ is to DESERTED.
10. COMPLIMENT is to PRAISE as _____ is to SHOCKING.
11. LARGE is to SMALL as _____ is to CALM.
12. MIRTH is to SADNESS as _____ is to CARELESSLY.

Vocabulary Review #2

The following vocabulary words are used in this activity:

destruction	serenely	chaos	vast
affectionately	frantically	menacing	loathsome
infuriated	flabbergasted	sinister	plummeted

1. CAUTIOUS is to RASH as _____ is to COOLLY.
2. CONFRONT is to AVOID as _____ is to ASCENDED.
3. STAY is to REMAIN as _____ is to ENRAGED.
4. COURAGE is to BRAVERY as _____ is to AMAZED.
5. MARVELOUS is to WONDERFUL as _____ is to CALMLY.
6. BETTER is to WORSE as _____ is to RENEWAL.
7. FESTIVE is to JOYFUL as _____ is to IMMENSE.
8. WRATH is to ANGER as _____ is to EVIL.
9. FORLORN is to HAPPY as _____ is to HARMLESS.
10. SHOCKED is to HORRIFIED as _____ is to DISORDER.
11. LIMITED is to EXTENSIVE as _____ is to CALMLY.
12. ALIVE is to EXTINCT as _____ is to CHARMING.