

NAME: _____



Activity One

Roald Dahl is the author of James and the Giant Peach and many other books for children and adults.

1. What other books by Ronald Dahl have you read?

2. Which book would interest you more – a book of funny and silly poems, or a make-believe story filled with suspense?

3. Look at the following book titles...

- The BFG
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator
- Danny, the Champion of the World
- The Enormous Crocodile
- Esio Trot
- Fantastic Mr. Fox
- George's Marvelous Medicine
- The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

- The Gremlins
- James and the Giant Peach
- The Magic Finger
- The Minpins
- Matilda
- The Twits
- The Vicar of Nibbleswicke
- The Witches

4. Which title sounds most interesting to you? What appeals to you about it?

5. Have you ever watched one of these stories as a movie? Which ones?

6. If he was still alive, and you could meet Roald Dahl, what would you like to ask him?

7. What would you want to know about his writing career?

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Activity Two

At the end of the novel, James and his friends in the giant peach land on the pinnacle of the Empire State Building. This is a famous landmark building located in New York City.

1. What do you know about the Empire State Building?

2. What do you know about New York City? Have you ever been to visit? Do you live there?

3. Every city is unique and special for its own reasons. What makes New York City special? Try to think of one thing.

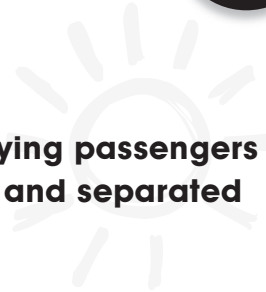
4. a) What other famous attractions do you know of in New York City? If you cannot think of any, look for information in resource books or on the Internet. Try to list three attractions.

b) Which of these attractions would you most like to visit? Why?

5. How would you get there from your home? How long would it take you to go there?

6. Look it up! What famous people live in New York City? Use the Internet or books from the library to find out.

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Activity Three

At the end of the novel, we read that a four-engine airplane was flying passengers from Chicago to New York City. It flew straight into the silk strings and separated the giant peach from the seagulls.

For this activity you will COLLECT information about AIRPLANES. You will need to do some research either at the library or on the Internet, or both. Collect as many interesting facts about airplanes as you can find. Record your findings in a half-page report.

Here are some questions for you to think about as you gather your information:

- When was the first airplane built? Who built it?
- What is the biggest airplane in use today? How many passengers does it carry?
 - What companies build airplanes today?
- What are some of the different kinds of airplanes (i.e., a four-engine airplane)?
 - How are airplanes different from jets and gliders?
 - Any other facts and information of interest to you.

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Activity Four

While the story of James and the Giant Peach begins in a sad and tragic way, it does end “happily ever after”. James has made wonderful friends, and they all settle in New York City. With such an exciting and eventful story, and a happy ending, we are left wondering, what could happen next?

What do YOU think could happen next to James?

Your task is to WRITE A SHORT STORY telling about James’ next adventure. Remember that a good story has a beginning, middle and an end.

Here are some questions for you to think about:

- What kind of story will you write (i.e., funny, suspenseful, tragic)?
- Who is in the story? Does James meet a new character (either human or non-human)?
 - Where does the adventure take place? What time of year is it?
- What happens to the characters? What problem or challenge must James face?
 - How is the problem solved?
- What kind of ending will you write? Will things end happily ever after?

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Activity Five

The setting at the beginning of the novel is London, England. We read that James' parents were shopping in London when they were eaten up by an enormous angry rhinoceros which had escaped the London Zoo.

1. Have you ever been to London, England?

2. Besides the London Zoo, what famous attractions can you find there? Try to list at least three. (You may need to do some research to answer this question.)

3. Do you know any famous people (real or fictitious) that come from England?

4. Name one other story that has the same setting of England.

5. How is England similar to your own country? How is it different?

6. Find three more interesting facts about England and write them below.

7. Do you think you would like living there? Why or why not?

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Activity Six

James has wonderful relationships with some unusual and fascinating characters in this novel. He meets Old-Green-Grasshopper, Earthworm, Ladybug, Centipede, Silkworm, Miss Spider and Glow-worm.

1. Which character did you like the most? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Which character did you like the least? Why?

3. List three facts about these insects that you already knew about before you read the story.

4. List three new facts about these insects that you learned from reading the story.

5. What other story do you remember that has a strange or unusual creature as a main character?

Illustrate your favorite **character** from the novel.

Illustrate your favorite **insect**.