

When James's parents die, he has to live with his two horrible aunts. He is lonely and sad. But then, a peach in his aunts' garden starts to grow bigger and bigger. What strange and wonderful friends will James meet inside the peach?

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	CEFR level	Story word count	Headwords
1	A1	1,000–2,000	550
2	A1+	3,000–4,000	700
3	A2	5,000–7,000	1,000
4	A2+	8,000–10,000	1,200

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JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Illustrated by Quentin Blake

ROALD DAHL

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JAMES AND GIANT THE PEACH

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LEVEL

3

This book has been simplified for English Language Learners
by Alberta White
Series Editor: Madeleine Burgess

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ABOUT ROALD DAHL AND QUENTIN BLAKE



Roald Dahl was a children's writer, and many of his stories are very famous across the world. Do you know any Roald Dahl books?



Quentin Blake drew pictures for Roald Dahl's stories. Do you like the pictures in this book? Which is your favourite picture?

About this story

In the story, the peach travels from the south of England to New York in the United States of America. This journey is about 3,400 miles across the Atlantic Ocean. It takes about a week to travel from England to New York by ship, or it takes about seven hours by aeroplane.

The Empire State Building is a very famous building in New York. It is 380 metres tall. There are offices inside the Empire State Building, and about 700 people work there.

MEET ...



James



Aunt Sponge
and Aunt Spiker



Old-Green-Grasshopper



Miss Spider



Ladybird



Earthworm



Centipede

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

NEW WORDS



escape (v.)

leave a bad place or
person quickly



lonely (adj.)

sad because nobody
is with you



a creature (n.)

a strange animal



a peach (n.)

a soft, sweet, orange
and yellow fruit



magic (n.)

Magic makes strange and
wonderful things happen.



sharp (adj.)

A sharp thing can cut
things very easily.

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What will happen in the story?
Answer the questions.

- 1 Look at the picture on page 11.
Do the aunts look happy?
- 2 Look at the picture on page 15.
What is in the bag?
- 3 Look at the picture on page 17.
What is happening?

Now let's read Chapter 1 and Chapter 2!

CHAPTER 1

James and the aunts

James Henry Trotter had a very happy life until he was four years old. He lived with his mother and father in a beautiful house by the sea. There were always lots of children, and every day they played and ran around on the beach together. It was a wonderful life for a little boy.

Then, one day, James's mother and father went shopping, and a terrible thing happened. A big angry animal **escaped** from London Zoo, and it ate his parents in the street in the middle of the afternoon.

Now this, of course, was not nice for these kind people. But it was much worse for little James because he was now **lonely** and frightened. He had to leave his nice house by the sea and go to live with his two aunts.

Their names were Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker,

and I am sorry to say they were both really horrible people. They thought that they were the most important people in the world. They wanted other people to work, so they didn't have to. And they were never, ever, kind.

From the beginning, they were horrible to James all the time. They never called him by his real name, but always said, "you ugly **creature**" or "you dirty thing". They never gave him any toys to play with or any picture books to look at.

They lived in a strange house on the top of a hill in the south of England. The hill was very high, and James could look down and see for miles and miles across forests and fields. On a sunny day, he could even see the ocean.





The aunts' garden was large and empty. The only tree was a very old **peach** tree, but it never grew any peaches.

James never left the top of the hill. His aunts did not take him out, and he could not go on his own. He never saw other children, and he had no friends. There was not even a cat or a dog to play with. James became sadder and sadder, and more and more lonely.

When James was seven years old, something very strange happened.

It was a hot day in the middle of the summer. Aunt Spiker, Aunt Sponge and James were all out in the garden. Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge were sitting comfortably and drinking big glasses of juice, and James was cutting wood for the kitchen fire.

His aunts shouted at him, "Cut the wood faster, you horrible creature!"



Aunt Sponge held a mirror, and she looked at her face in it again and again.

"I look and smell as beautiful as a flower," she said. "I should be an actor in the movies!"

"I am much more beautiful," Aunt Spiker cried. "Look at my body, my pretty face, my wonderful smile!"

"My dear old sister," Aunt Sponge said, "you look like a fish!"

Little James worked hard, but it was very hot and his arms were tired. He began to think about all the other children in the world. Were they riding bikes in their gardens, or playing at the beach? James began to cry.

"What's the matter?" shouted Aunt Spiker.

"Stop that now and work harder, you horrible boy," cried Aunt Sponge.

"Oh, Aunt Sponge!" James said. "And Aunt Spiker! Please can we all go to the beach on the bus? It isn't a long way, and I feel very hot and lonely . . ."

"Hit him!" cried Aunt Sponge.

"I will!" Aunt Spiker said. She looked at James,

and James looked back at her with big, frightened eyes. "I will hit you later when it isn't hot. And now go away. I don't want to look at you, you dirty creature."



CHAPTER 2

The little green things

James ran to the end of the garden. He put his face in his hands and cried and cried. Then, suddenly, James heard a noise behind him. When he turned, he saw an old man in funny green clothes in the garden. He was a very small old man. He had a big black beard, but there was no hair on the top of his head. He stood there and looked hard at James.

"Come closer to me, little boy," he said in a slow voice, "and I will show you something wonderful."

James did not move. He was too frightened. The old man stepped nearer to James, and he showed him a small white paper bag.

"What's inside this little bag?" the old man said, quietly.

James looked. Inside the bag, he could see

thousands of very small green things. Each one was the same size as a piece of rice, and they were very beautiful.

"Look at them," the old man said. "Look at them moving."

James looked into the bag again. Yes, the green things were moving very, very slowly.

"But what are they?" James asked.



"There's very strong **magic** in those things," the old man said, softly. "When they meet something, that thing gets all their magic! It can be a person or an animal or a tree. It doesn't matter!"

Suddenly, he pushed the white paper bag into James's hands, and he said, "Here! You take it! It's yours! Just put the little green things into some water and then drink it all. You will feel it in your stomach. Seconds after that, wonderful things will happen to you. You will never be lonely, frightened or sad again. I know that you're sad. I know all about it. Now, go and do it. Do it now! And don't tell those two horrible aunts. Those green things must not escape. If the green things meet someone before you, that person will get their magic, and you won't!"

Then the old man turned and went, and James ran back to the house as fast as he could go. He was very excited. Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker were still sitting in the garden. James did not want his aunts to see him, so he ran under the old peach tree in the middle of the garden. Suddenly, he stepped on a

sharp stone, and he fell onto the grass. The bag hit the ground and opened, and the thousands of little green things went everywhere!

James got on his hands and knees and looked around for them. But what was happening? The green things were all moving down into the hard ground. James tried to get some of them, but they were too quick, and he could not stop them.

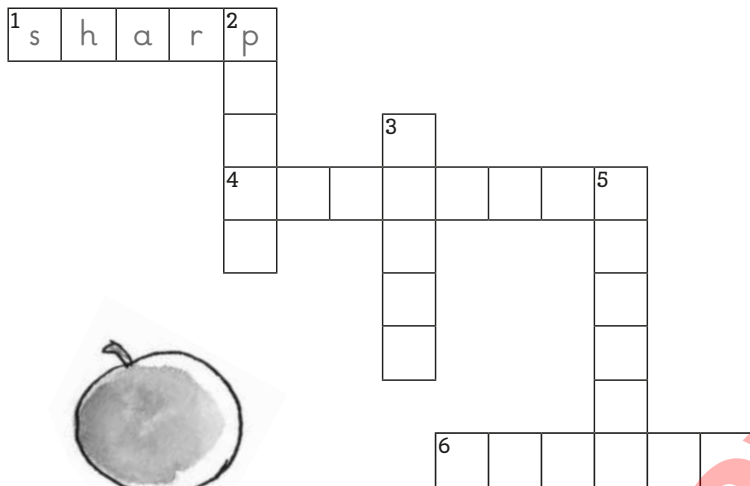
Soon, they were all under the ground.



Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Write the correct words.



Across

- 1 This can cut things very easily.
- 4 a strange animal
- 6 sad because nobody is with you

Down

- 2 a soft, sweet, orange and yellow fruit
- 3 This makes strange and wonderful things happen.
- 5 leave a bad place or person quickly

Circle the correct word.

- 1 Until James was four years old, he was very **happy** / sad.
- 2 Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker are **kind** / horrible.
- 3 Now, James is frightened and **lonely** / magic.
- 4 The aunts' garden is **large** / small and empty.
- 5 The things in the bag are very small and **green** / blue.
- 6 James falls on the ground because he steps on a **sharp** / round stone.