

# James and the Giant Peach - Phase 1 Day 3

By Roald Dahl



The World's  
No.1 Storyteller  
**ROALD**

**DAHL**

**James  
AND THE GIANT PEACH**  
ILLUSTRATED BY QUENTIN BLAKE



**James Henry Trotter's**

parents have been eaten by a  
**rhinoceros**, so now he lives with his  
**two repulsive aunts.**

**One hot day**

something peculiar happens and an

**enormous peach**

grows in their garden. Soon

**James and the Giant Peach**

are rolling away from his horrible aunts,

towards a most **marvellous** and

**WONDERFUL PLACE . . .**



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**RECALL:**

What does  
the cover of  
the book tell  
us about the  
possible story  
inside?

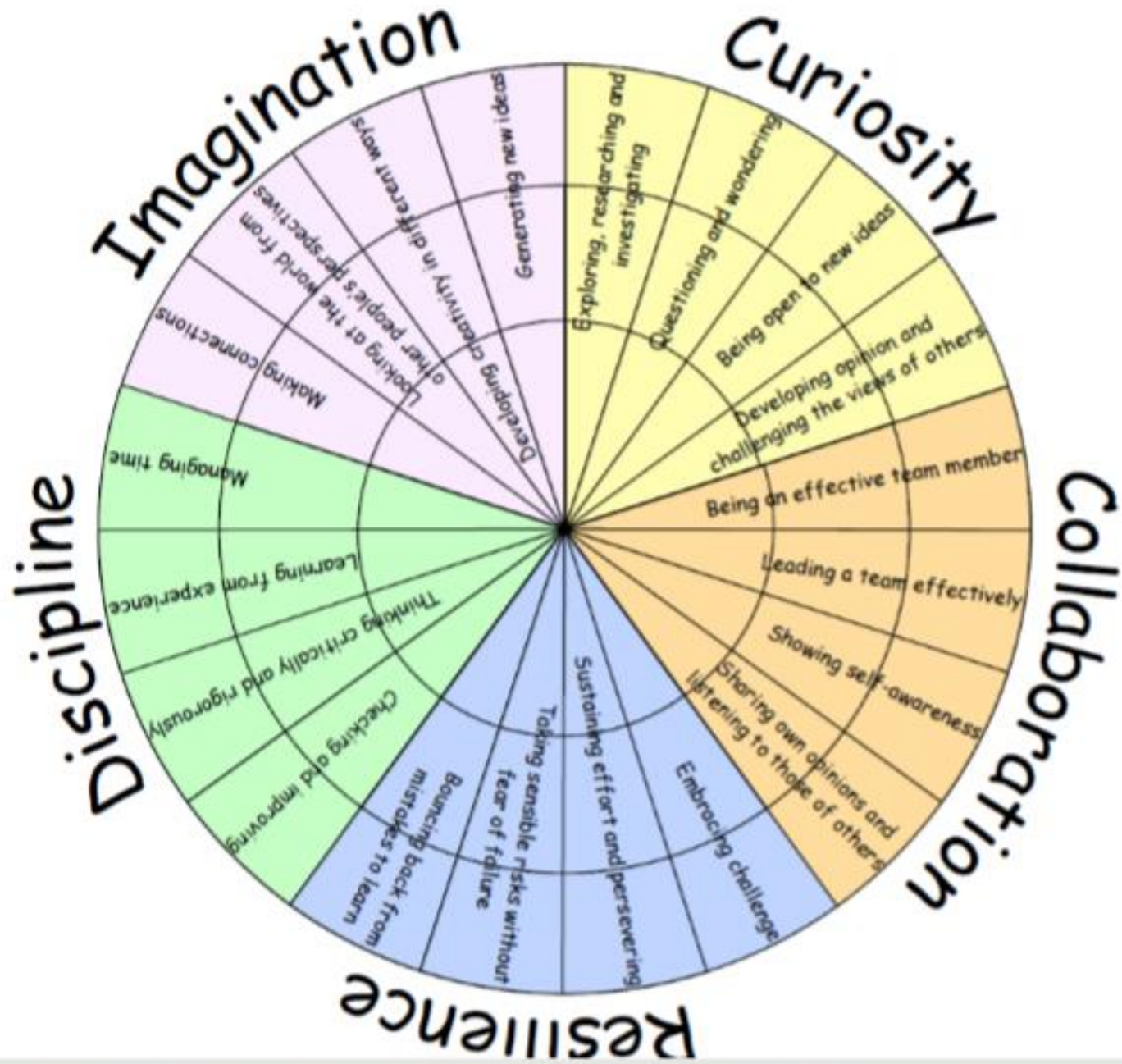
# LEARNING LADDER AND SKILLS:

RESPONDER: p13 step 5

I can participate in discussions about books that are read to me or that I read

## SKILLS:

- Reading
- Thinking
- Collaborating
- Improving



## LEARNING HABITS:

Which learning habits do you think we will need to use today?

# READING FLUENCY: - Read the text through once

## Chapter One

Until he was four years old, James Henry Trotter had a happy life. He lived peacefully with his mother and father in a beautiful house beside the sea. There were always plenty of other children for him to play with, and there was the sandy beach for him to run about on, and the ocean to paddle in. It was the perfect life for a small boy. Then, one day, James's mother and father went to London to do some shopping, and there a terrible thing happened. Both of them suddenly got eaten up (in full daylight, mind you, and on a crowded street) by an enormous angry rhinoceros which had escaped from the London Zoo.

## READING FLUENCY: - Read the text through once

Now this, as you can well imagine, was a rather nasty experience for two such gentle parents. But in the long run it was far nastier for James than it was for them. Their troubles were all over in a jiffy. They were dead and gone in thirty-five seconds flat. Poor James, on the other hand, was still very much alive, and all at once he found himself alone and frightened in a vast unfriendly world. The lovely house by the seaside had to be sold immediately, and the little boy, carrying nothing but a small suitcase containing a pair of pyjamas and a toothbrush, was sent away to live with his two aunts.

## READING FLUENCY: - Read the text through once

Their names were Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker, and I am sorry to say that they were both really horrible people. They were selfish and lazy and cruel, and right from the beginning they started beating poor James for almost no reason at all. They never called him by his real name, but always referred to him as 'you disgusting little beast' or 'you filthy nuisance' or 'you miserable creature', and they certainly never gave him any toys to play with or any picture books to look at. His room was as bare as a prison cell.



## READING FLUENCY: - Read the text through once

They lived - Aunt Sponge, Aunt Spiker, and now James as well - in a queer ramshackle house on the top of a high hill in the south of England. The hill was so high that from almost anywhere in the garden James could look down and see for miles and miles across a marvellous landscape of woods and fields; and on a very clear day, if he looked in the right direction, he could see a tiny grey dot far away on the horizon, which was the house that he used to live in with his beloved mother and father. And just beyond that, he could see the ocean itself - a long thin streak of blackish-blue, like a line of ink, beneath the rim of the sky.



## READING FLUENCY: - Read the text through once

But James was never allowed to go down off the top of that hill. Neither Aunt Sponge nor Aunt Spiker could ever be bothered to take him out herself, not even for a small walk or a picnic, and he certainly wasn't permitted to go alone. 'The nasty little beast will only get into mischief if he goes out of the garden,' Aunt Spiker had said. And terrible punishments were promised him, such as being locked up in the cellar with the rats for a week, if he even so much as dared to climb over the fence. The garden, which covered the whole of the top of the hill, was large and desolate, and the only tree in the entire place (apart from a clump of dirty old laurel bushes at the far end) was an ancient peach tree that never gave any peaches. There was no swing, no seesaw, no sand pit, and no other children were ever invited to come up the hill to play with poor James. There wasn't so much as a dog or a cat around to keep him company. And as time went on, he became sadder and sadder, and more and more lonely, and he used to spend

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## Deeper Dive - Comprehension

In partners, try to answer the comprehension questions together.

What skills do we need to use?

How can we use the text to back up and check our answers?