

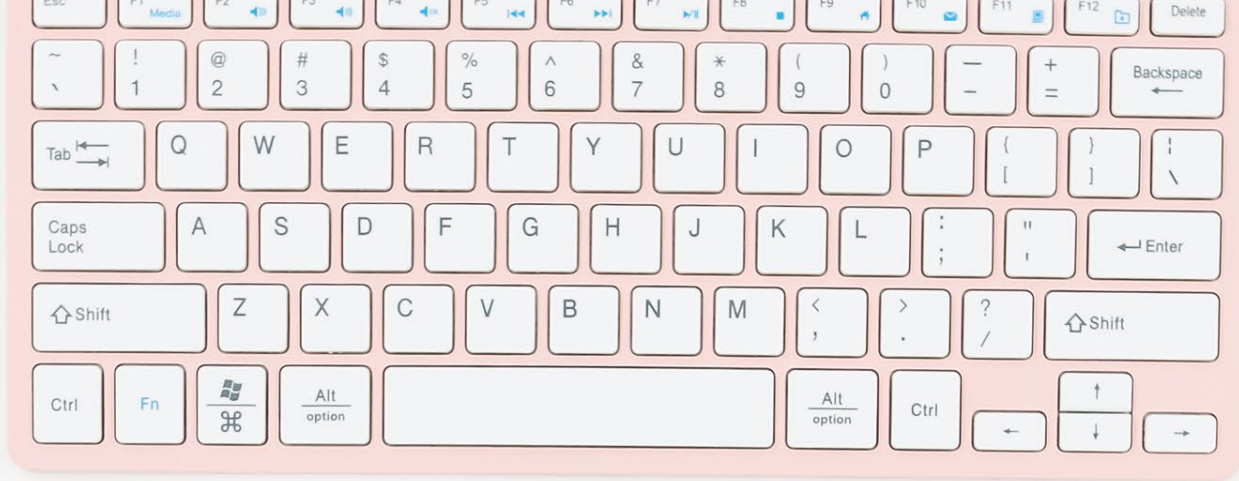
NOVEL STUDY

James and the Giant Peach



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Color and Blackline Versions

getting started

Making Predictions

Before you start reading *James and the Giant Peach*, observe the front cover of your novel, read the summary on the back (if there is one on your copy), and do a quick picture walk through it. What are your thoughts and predictions about *the Giant Peach*?

reading section 2

Who Is Mr. Centipede?

Mr. Centipede could be considered a main character in this novel. Consider what you know about him so far and describe his character using the prompts below.

- In one box, describe Mr. Centipede's body features.
- In one box, describe something Mr. Centipede is talented at.
- In one box, describe Mr. Centipede's personality.
- In one box, copy a quote that you find in section one that describes something you find interesting about Mr. Centipede.



expectations

reading
section 2

Obstacle Web

- Throughout the novel guide, you will be asked to return to this "obstacle web" to identify major obstacles that the main characters face. For each of the remaining 4 sections, fill out a bubble on the web and describe one obstacle that they face on their journey. Start now by describing an obstacle they faced in section two.

section 2



section 4

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reading
section 4

Identifying Themes

Sometimes the theme of a story is obvious, and sometimes it takes a lot of thought to identify the theme. One way to identify the theme (or themes!) is to ask yourself questions. Read the three questions below and think about your answer. Based on your thoughts, what themes have emerged in the story (no matter how big or small)?

What have the characters learned, and/or how have they grown?

What events or mistakes keep repeating within the story?

What does the story make you think about in your own life?

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finishing up

Show What You Know!

1. Which word best describes the city's general feeling about the large floating peach?

- a. excitement
- b. fear
- c. peace
- d. gratitude

2. Read the following sentence from the story. What/who is this quote referring to?
"And it was precisely on top of this needle that the peach fell!"

- a. The Empire State Building in New York City.
- b. The chimney of James's childhood home on the ocean.
- c. The knitting needle of an old woman on a park bench.
- d. The beak of a seagull that had been flying them across the ocean.

3. Reflect on the meaning of the vocab word flabbergasted. Which of the following is an antonym to that word?

- a. unaffected
- b. shocked
- c. surprised
- d. amazed

4. What is the author's purpose in the last chapter of the novel?

- a. To leave the reader with a huge cliffhanger.
- b. To let the reader know about the lives of each character.
- c. To finally reveal the mystery.
- d. To make the reader think about their own life.

5. Reread the last three paragraphs of the novel (starting with "Every day" until the end). What does the last line of the text imply? How does that make your understanding of the book more interesting?



This is the end of the *James and The Giant Peach* novel guide! Hope you enjoyed this amazing book!



Quick Assessments for Each Section

Digital Interactive Version in Google Slides

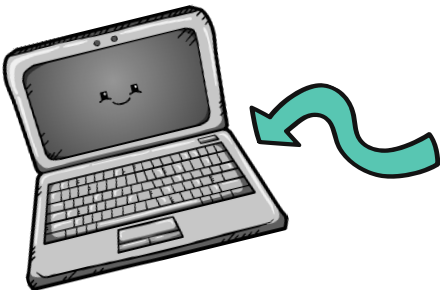


Teacher Instructions

This NOVEL GUIDE is designed to elevate your novel study in an engaging way for students. Students will work in their Novel Guide Notebook while reading the assigned novel. This novel guide can be used in multiple ways: independent work, partner work, small group work, or even summer reading.

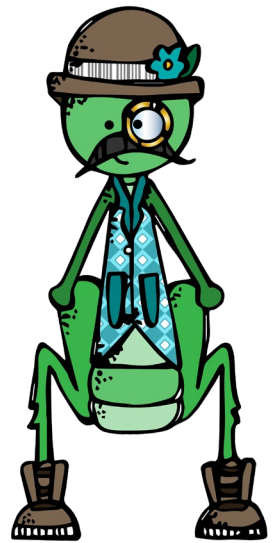
This novel guide was created for the novel *James and the Giant Peach* and is divided into SIX sections:

1. **GETTING STARTED**: pre-reading activities
2. **READING SECTION 1**: during reading activities (chapters 1-8)
3. **READING SECTION 2**: during reading activities (chapters 9-16)
4. **READING SECTION 3**: during reading activities (chapters 17-22)
5. **READING SECTION 4**: during reading activities (chapters 23-31)
6. **FINISHING UP**: after-reading activities (chapters 32-39)



Click the computer for the
digital version!

To organize this novel guide, we have divided the novel into five main reading sections. We suggest students read all chapters before completing that section of activities. The chapters are outlined above and at the start of each section.



getting
started

reading
section 1

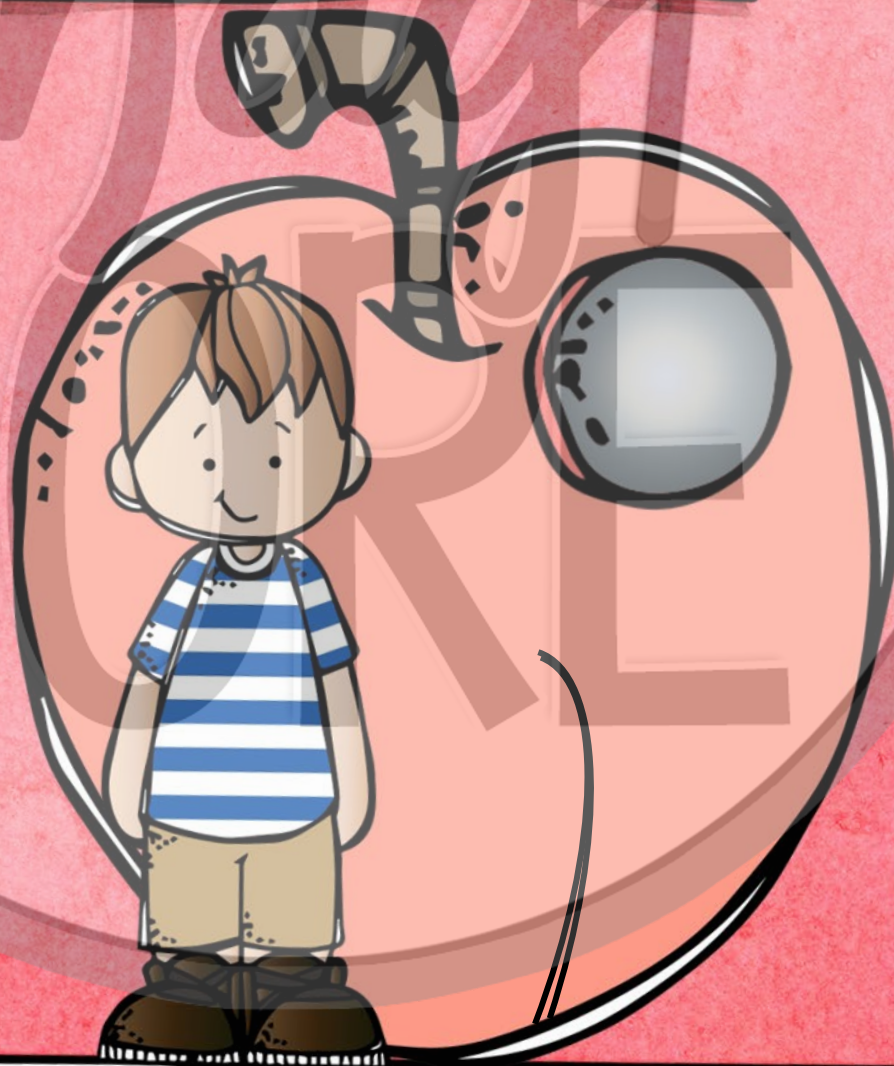
reading
section 2

reading
section 3

reading
section 4

finishing
up

James and the Giant Peach

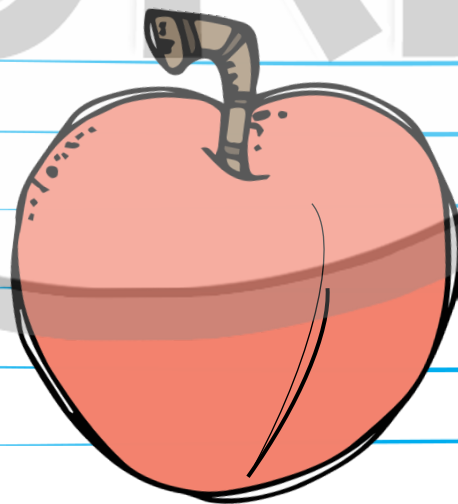


Getting Started!

Before jumping into the novel, *James and the Giant Peach*, you are going to learn some important background information about the characters and setting. You will also have a chance to make some predictions!

Check out the specific directions below to get started!

1. Describe what you know about peaches.
2. Consider the meaning of "giant."
3. Describe your thoughts, predictions, and expectations of *James and the Giant Peach*.



What Do You Know About Peaches?

In the space below, write what you know about peaches!
Consider all of your senses as you describe this tasty fruit!



taste

smell

sight

touch

What do you know about how peaches grow?



What Does "Giant" Mean to You?

1. What does the word "giant" mean to you?

Write your own definition, then list three synonyms and three antonyms to the word.

*James
and
the
Giant
Peach*



2. The meaning of "giant" can change depending on what you are describing as "giant!" For example, if you imagine a "giant carrot" and a "giant waterfall," they're probably not going to be the same size. The word "giant" implies that something is much bigger than it *normally* or *usually* is. Keeping this in mind, how big do you think a "giant peach" is? You can describe it in terms of measurements or by using a simile.

Making Predictions

Before you start reading *James and the Giant Peach*, observe the front cover of your novel, read the summary on the back (if there is one on your copy), and do a quick picture walk through the book. Based on your findings, what are your thoughts and predictions about *James and the Giant Peach*?



thoughts



predictions



expectations

imag
CORE

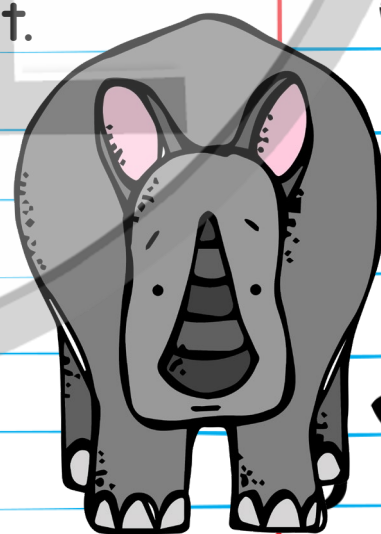
Reading Section I

It's time to start reading *James and The Giant Peach*! Be sure to read the chapters of section one listed below before starting the activities below.

Chapters 1 - 8

After reading the chapters of section one, complete each activity below.

1. Complete the Section I Dictionary.
2. Complete James's character chart.
3. Explore cause and effect.
4. Compare James's aunts.
5. Describe the 3 peculiar things.
6. Complete the acrostic!
7. Illustrate a main event.
8. Show What You Know!



Using a dictionary, define
these vocabulary words from
section one.

Scan the QR code for a
dictionary:



- "... you filthy nuisance ..." (1)

nuisance:

- "... was large and desolate ..." (1)

desolate:

- "... a sort of luminous quality ..." (3)

luminous:

- "... you will never be miserable again ..." (4)

miserable:

- "... something peculiar is about to happen ..." (6)

peculiar:

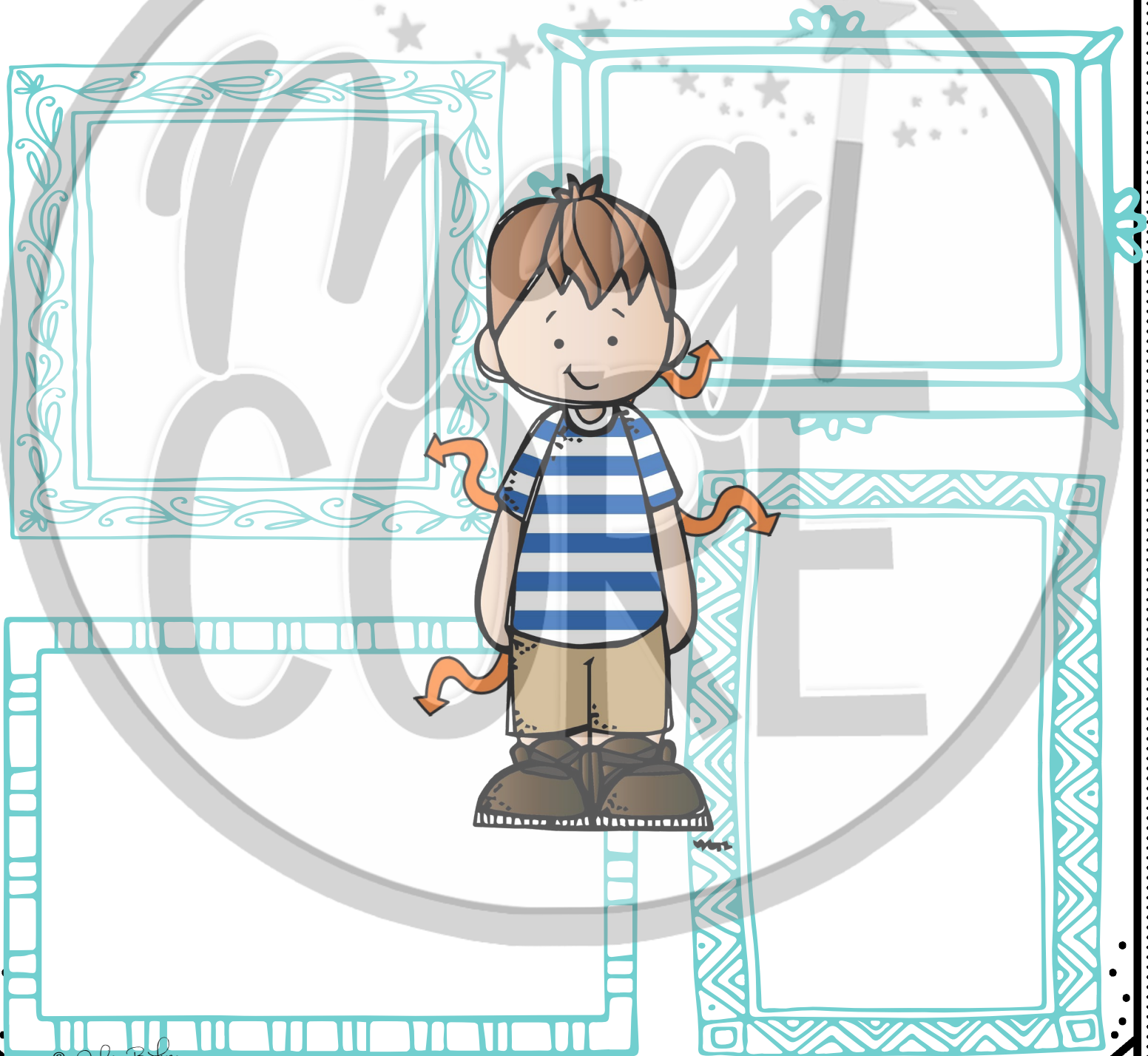
- "... get a glimpse of this miraculous fruit ..." (8)

miraculous:

Who Is James?

James is the main character in this novel! Consider what you know about him so far and describe his character using the prompts below.

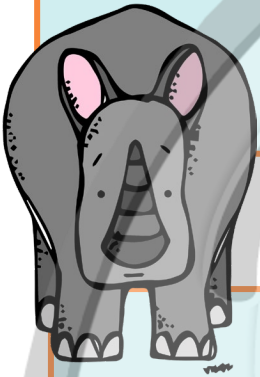
- In one box, describe James's current living arrangements.
- In one box, describe something James wants.
- In one box, describe James's personality.
- In one box, copy a quote that you find in section one that describes something you find interesting about James.



Identifying a cause and effect and describing a sequence of events are two ways to analyze a part of a story. In fact, they are very similar! A cause and effect can be seen as a condensed version of a sequence of events (usually the first and last events in the sequence). It can be interesting to start with a known cause and effect, then dig deeper into the story to describe a more detailed sequence of events. Consider the example to the left from the first chapter of *James and the Giant Peach*. First, identify the "effect," then take the same example and describe the longer sequence of events using details from the text.

Cause:

James's parents were eaten by a rhinoceros that escaped from the zoo.



Effect:

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

The Aunts

In the comparison chart below, compare James's two aunts. Avoid describing their physical features, as it is not respectful to comment on people's bodies but be sure to describe their differences and similarities in personality, manners, desires, and more. Use at least one quote from the novel in each of the three sections.

Aunt _____



Aunt _____



Three Peculiar Things

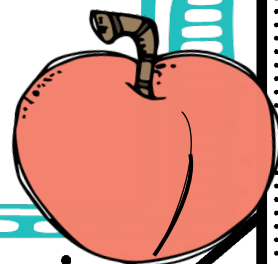
In the three frames below, describe the three “peculiar” things that happen to James. Be sure to describe them in the order they occur and use at least one vocab word from this section in each description.



peculiar thing #1

peculiar thing #2

peculiar thing #3



A Lonely James

Reflect on how James feels living in that house on the hill with his aunts. What does he miss? What can't he do? What does he want?

Complete the acrostic to the right by coming up with 5 words, phrases, or sentences that describe James's situation, emotions/feelings, or desires. Each of the 5 words, phrases, or sentences should begin with a letter of his name. Share them with a partner when you're finished!

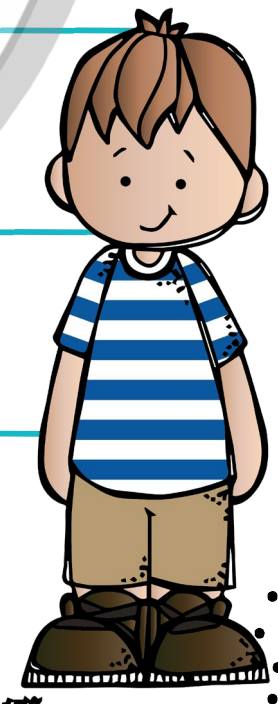
J

A

M

E

S



Illustrate A Main Event

Create a drawing or other visual representation of a main event in section one. It can be any event that you think is important. Include words or a quote if you would like.

You will create one for each section of the novel, then put them together at the very end to summarize the plotline of the novel - keep this in mind as you choose which scene/event you want to illustrate.



1. Which word best describes James's aunts' treatment of him?

- a. coincidental
- b. casual
- c. cruel
- d. candid

2. Read the following sentence from the story. What/who is this quote referring to?

The breath smelled musty and stale and slightly mildewed, like air in an old cellar.

- a. Aunt Spike
- b. James's father
- c. The old man
- d. Aunt Sponge

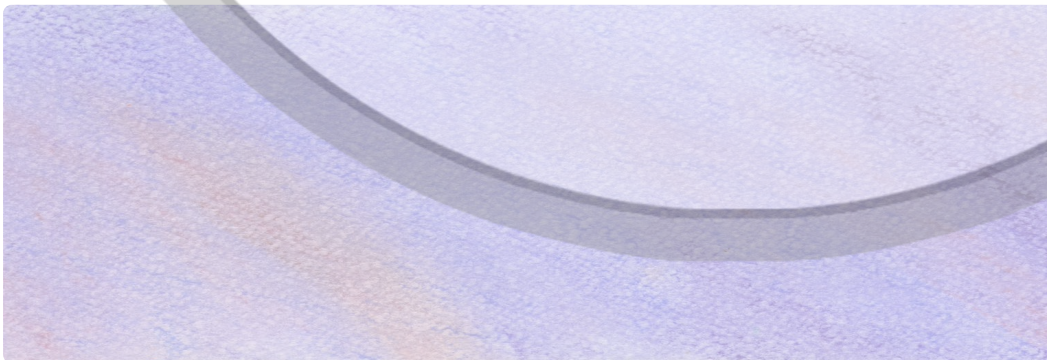
3. Reflect on the meaning of the vocab word luminous. Which of the following is a synonym of that word?

- a. cautious
- b. glowing
- c. enormous
- d. Dull

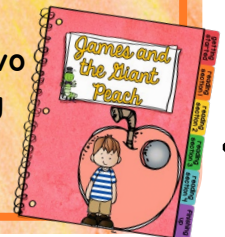
4. What do James's aunts do with the giant peach?

- a. They eat it.
- b. They charge people money to come see it.
- c. They hire a baker to come make pies.
- d. They hit it with a baseball bat.

5. If you were to give a title to this section of the novel, what would it be? Explain why, and how it relates to this section.



This is the end of
section one. Get
ready for
section two
by reading
chapters
9-16.



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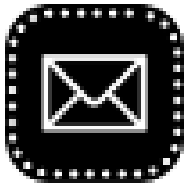
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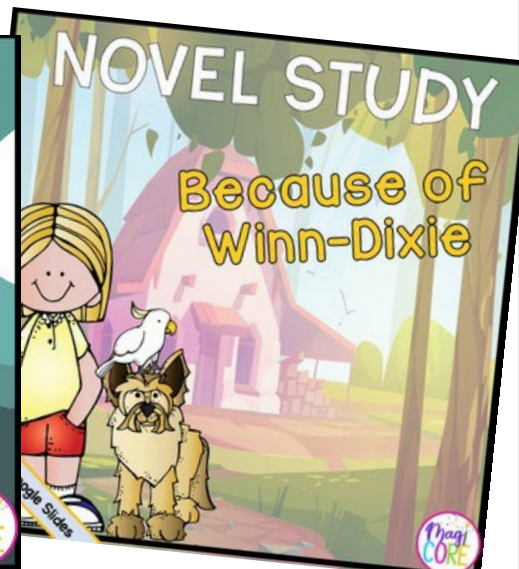
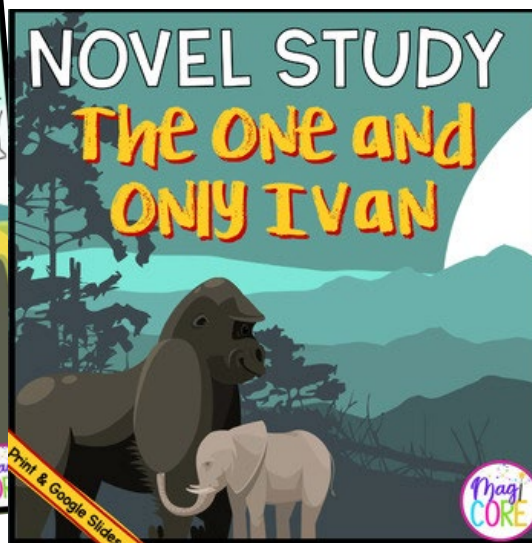


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