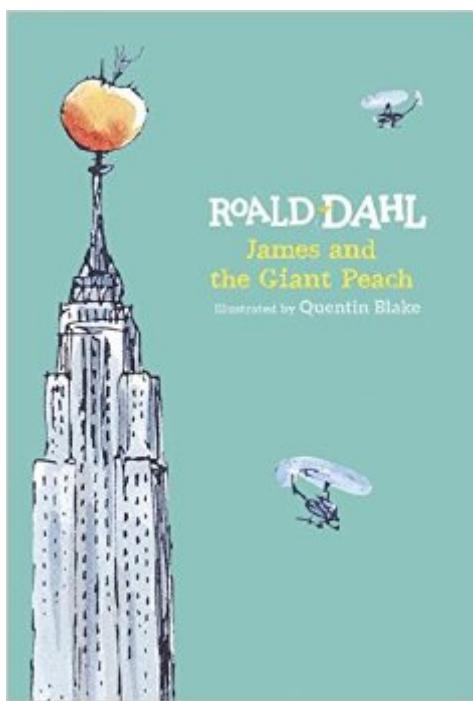


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# James And The Giant Peach



## **Synopsis**

This collectable hardcover edition will feature a beautiful cover and deluxe packaging, including peach-colored interior text and illustrations! From the bestselling author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The BFG* comes the story of a young boy on a magical adventure. After James Henry Trotter's parents are tragically eaten by a rhinoceros, he goes to live with his two horrible aunts, Spiker and Sponge. Life there is no fun, until James accidentally drops some magic crystals by the old peach tree and strange things start to happen. The peach at the top of the tree begins to grow, and before long it's as big as a house. Inside, James meets a bunch of oversized friends—Grasshopper, Centipede, Ladybug, and more. With a snip of the stem, the peach starts rolling away, and the great adventure begins!

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0870 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0425287653

ISBN-13: 978-0425287651

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (726 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,202 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders #226 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #314 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

I first read "James and the Giant Peach" when I was 9 years old (I am 14 now), and reread it so many times that I actually know the story by heart! This book is funny, exciting and makes me use my imagination. The story: After his parents are eaten by a rhinoceros (I would've made a tiger eat them instead, since in real life rhinos don't eat meat!), young James Henry Trotter has to go live with his two mean aunts named Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker, who treat him very very badly. Poor James has to live with his aunts for three whole years until one day a mysterious man gives him a

bag of magic things. (He tells him they are crocodile tongues.) James is so excited that he starts running back to the house, but when he is underneath an old peach tree in the garden he accidentally slips and spills all the tiny little things and they dig themselves into the roots of the tree. Suddenly a peach appears on the very tip of the tree and then starts to grow and grow and doesn't stop until it is as big as a house! The aunts are so excited about this that instead of immediately eating pieces off the peach they start charging people to see the peach. After everyone has left they force James to pick up all the litter that the people left behind. Poor James is left all alone in the dark! For no particular reason, James walks up to the peach and starts touching it. He notices that there is a rather large hole in the peach. He crawls in, and the hole becomes a tunnel. He keeps on crawling until he reaches the center of the peach. He meets seven oversized insects who turn out to have swallowed some of the tiny little things that James had spilled. When the stem snips off (with some help, of course), the peach rolls off and the eight travellers embark on the adventure of a lifetime!

I bought this book. Dahl's name on a book, to me, is synonymous with a wild ride. *James and the Giant Peach* is quite possibly his craziest book (that I've read) so far. Dahl's penchant for abused children facing down a cruel world sets the scene, with James Henry Trotter (whose parents were gobbled up by a rhinoceros) living a lonely, miserable life in the cruel care of his aunts Spiker and Sponge (who are, of course, truly horrible people, even for Dahl's worlds). Then one day a strange man appears and gives James magical green things, telling him to brew them into a tea and drink them and marvelous things will happen. Parents will be close to screaming at this point, both because of the blatant abuse of the lead character and the danger of eating things strangers (and this man is indeed **VERY** strange) offer. Consider it an opportunity to have a talk or two about the serious subjects with your kids. James accidentally trips and loses the green magical things, which burrow into the ground and instead work their magic on the few occupants of the horrible aunts' pitiful garden. The strange man was right, though, and the peach tree somehow surviving in such a horrible place, grows a gigantic peach that serves as boat, meal and almost a secondary character in James' voyage to freedom. *James and the Giant Peach* is quite "out there". In fact between giant bugs, sheer strangeness and outlandish extremism (and cloud people) *James and the Giant Peach* could fit into the bizarro genre, if it was commonly aimed at children readers. There is some issue with language ("ass" is used several times) and the level of abuse James suffers that makes this book not for all families.

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