

James and the Giant Peach

Roald Dahl Adapted by Richard R. George

Written in 1961 and adapted as a play in 1982 by American school teacher, Richard George.

JAMES has escaped from his dreadful guardians, Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge and sets off inside the Giant Peach on his amazing adventures. He is accompanied by his friends, Earthworm, Centipede, Old-Green-Grasshopper, Spider, Ladybird and Glow-Worm,

In this scene, the Peach has broken through the garden fence, rolled down the hill and on and on towards Dover, where it hurtles over the white cliffs and into the sea. Now it is floating further and further out, bobbing along on the waves, JAMES and his friends have climbed out and are sitting on top of it, when the Centipede looks towards the horizon and sees a thin black thing moving towards them. It is a shark. Soon there are more sharks and they begin to attack the Peach. Ladybird appeals to JAMES. Surely he can think of something before they are all eaten alive.

JAMES

There *is* something that I believe we might try. I'm not saying it'll work ... 1 ... I ... I'm afraid it's no good . . . after all . . . *(Shaking his head)* I'm terribly sorry. I forgot. We don't have any string. We'd need hundreds of yards of string to make this work . . . The Silkworm? You can wake him up and make him spin? And you, Spider, can spin just as well as any Silkworm! Can you make enough between you? And would it be strong? . . . I'm going to lift this Peach clear out of the water! With seagulls! the place is full of them. Look up there! *(Pointing towards the sky)* I'm going to take a long silk string and I'm going to loop one end of it around a seagull's neck. And then I'm going to tie the other end to the stem of the Peach. *(JAMES points to the Peach stem, which is standing up like a mast in the middle of the stage)* It's like balloons. You give someone enough balloons to hold, I mean *really* enough, then up he goes. And a seagull has far more lifting power than a balloon, If only we have *time* to do it. . . We'll do it with bait. With a worm, of course. Seagulls love worms, didn't you know that? And luckily for us, we have here the biggest, fattest, juiciest Earthworm . . . *(He puts his arm around Earthworm)* I won't let them *touch* you. I promise I won't! But we've got to hurry! Look down there! Action stations! There's not a moment to lose! All hands below deck except Earthworm!