



Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach

September 13 – 22, 2019

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm
Sundays at 3:00 pm

2nd Street Stage
Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center
120 South 2nd Street

Adapted by Timothy Allen McDonald
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Based on *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl

About the Musical

Based on the book by Roald Dahl, *James and the Giant Peach* tells the story of a young orphan who escapes from his miserable life in England by sailing to New York on a giant peach. Along the way, he encounters a mysterious magician and befriends five insects who join him on his journey.

About the Thalian Association

Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that's dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic environment of the Cape Fear region. Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the [Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center](#) for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.



Lesson Plan

Use this lesson plan to explore the characters of Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker in Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* using metaphors and similes.

Objectives

Students will:

- Explore metaphors and similes in the descriptions of Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker.
- Describe a new character using metaphors and similes.

Materials

- Copies of Chapters 1 and 2 of *James and the Giant Peach*.
- Objects or pictures of a pig, a sponge, a witch, a cabbage.



James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, Illustrations by Quentin Blake

Lesson Directions

Activity 1

Step 1: Read the following passage from the book aloud.

Passage from *James and the Giant Peach*

“Aunt Sponge was enormously fat and very short. She had small piggy eyes, a sunken mouth and one of those white flabby faces that looked exactly as though it had been boiled. She was like a great white soggy overboiled cabbage. Aunt Spiker, on the other hand, was lean and tall and bony, and she wore steel-rimmed spectacles that fixed on to the end of her nose with a clip. She had a screeching voice and long wet narrow lips, and whenever she got angry or excited, little flecks of spit would come shooting out of her mouth as she talked. And there they sat, these two ghastly hags, sipping their drinks, and every now and again screaming at James to chop faster and faster. They also talked about themselves, each one saying how beautiful she thought she was.”

Step 2: As they listen to the descriptions, ask the students to draw the way they imagine the characters to look.

Step 3: Label the drawings with quotes from the text.

Step 4: Show the students a picture of a spike. As a class, create a mind map of associative words around the picture, using these questions:

- What can a spike do?
- Where might we see spikes?
- How would you feel if you saw this spike in front of you?
- What might the spike tell us about the type of person Aunt Spiker is?

Step 5: Show objects or pictures of a pig, a sponge, a witch/hag and a cabbage to continue the discussion.

Step 6: Elicit more ideas associated with each word to add more dimensions to the discussion; for example, pigs are greedy; an overboiled cabbage wouldn't smell very nice; witches/hags cast spells on people.



*"Action stations! James shouted.
Jump to it! There's not a moment to lose!"*

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, Illustrations by Quentin Blake



James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, Illustrations by Quentin Blake

Activity 2

Step 1: Working in pairs, have the children create another awful aunt for James.

Step 2: Following these questions, describe his new aunt:

- If James' new aunt was an animal, what animal would she be? Why?
- If his new aunt was a vegetable, what kind of vegetable would she be? Why?
- What would his new aunt do and what does she talk about? Why?
- What is the aunt's name? (you could use one of your above answers to help you). Explain your answer.

Step 3: Independently, the children draw a picture of the new Aunt and write some words around the picture to describe her.



"It seems that almost everyone around here is loved!" said James.

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, Illustrations by Quentin Blake

Material Sources

Roalddahl.com, dpi.state.nc.us, yardgallery.com