

Smarter Balanced COMMON CORE ALIGNED

FREE Test Prep

Elementary Grades 3-5

FREEBIE

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Read the text and answer the questions.

Excerpt from *James and the Giant Peach*
by Roald Dahl

Until he was four years old, James Henry Trotter had 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 in a crowded street) by an enormous angry rhinoceros which had escaped from the London Zoo.

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 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 very 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 pajamas and a toothbrush, was away to live with his two aunts.*

Their names were Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker, and I am sorry to say that they were really horrible people. They were selfish and lazy and cruel, and right from the beginning 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.

1

Read the sentence from the text.

"Poor James, on the other hand, was still very much alive and frightened in a **vast** unfriendly world."

What does the word **vast** most likely mean?

(A) area
(B) great
(C) large
(D) very

4

Which of the following **best** matches James' mood? Select **two** choices.

A uneasy
B afraid
C content
D miserable
E joyful
F unhappy

5

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What conclusion about the aunts is supported by the text?

(A) The aunts can be kind some of the time.
(B) The aunts are only mean to James.
(C) The aunts do not like children.
(D) The aunts did not like James' parents.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

(A) "Their names were Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker, and I am sorry to say that they were both really horrible people."
(B) "They were selfish and lazy and cruel, and right from the beginning they started beating poor James for almost no reason at all."
(C) "They lived — Aunt Sponge, Aunt Spiker, and now James as well — in an unusual ramshackle house on the top of a high hill in the south of England."
(D) "There wasn't so much as a dog or a cat around to keep him company."



Created by A Creative Classroom ©

Smarter Balanced Question Breakdown

James and the Giant Peach Passage

Question	Common Core Standards Topic	Type of Question
1	RL.3.4, RL.4.4, RL.5.4 Word Meaning	Multiple Choice
2	RL.3.2, RL.4.2, RL.5.2 Summary	Multiple Choice
3	RL.3.3, RL.4.3, RL.5.3 Character	Short Answer
4	RL.3.3, RL.4.3, RL.5.3 Character	Multi Select
5	RL.3.3, RL.4.3, RL.5.3 Character Inference	A B Question
6	RL.3.5, RL.4.5, RL.5.5 Structure	Multiple Choice
7	RL.3.2, RL.4.2, RL.5.2 Summary	Multi Select
8	RL.3.1, RL.4.1, RL.5.1 Text Evidence	Multi Select
9	RL.3.4, RL.4.4, RL.5.4 Word Meaning	Multiple Choice
10	RL.3.2, RL.4.2, RL.5.2 Lesson	Short Answer

Read the text and answer the questions.

Excerpt from *James and the Giant Peach*

by Roald Dahl

Until he was four years old, James Henry Trotter had 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.

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 pajamas and a toothbrush, was sent away to live with his two aunts.

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.

They lived — Aunt Sponge, Aunt Spiker, and now James as well — in an unusual 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 marvelous landscape of woods and fields; and on a very clear day, if he looked in the right direction, he could see a tiny gray 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.

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 hours every day standing at the bottom of the garden, gazing wistfully at the lovely but forbidden world of woods and fields and ocean that was spread out below him like a magic carpet.

1

Read the sentence from the text.

“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.”

What does the word vast most likely mean?

- (A) area
- (B) great
- (C) large
- (D) very

2

What happens after James lost his parents?

- (A) James goes to live with his aunts.
- (B) James spends all his time in the garden.
- (C) James goes to the London Zoo.
- (D) James decides to stay in the house by the sea.

3

What can you infer about James' parents? Include information from the text in your answer.

4

Which of the following **best** matches James' mood? Select **two** choices.

- A uneasy
- B afraid
- C content
- D miserable
- E joyful
- F unhappy

5

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B

Part A

What conclusion about the aunts is supported by the text?

- (A) The aunts can be kind some of the time.
- (B) The aunts are only mean to James.
- (C) The aunts do not like children.
- (D) The aunts did not like James' parents.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- (A) "Their names were Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker, and I am sorry to say that they were both really horrible people."
- (B) "They were selfish and lazy and cruel, and right from the beginning they started beating poor James for almost no reason at all."
- (C) "They lived — Aunt Sponge, Aunt Spiker, and now James as well — in an unusual ramshackle house on the top of a high hill in the south of England."
- (D) "There wasn't so much as a dog or a cat around to keep him company."

6

Why does the author talk about who James has to play with, in the beginning, compared to the end of the passage?

- (A) to help understand the loss of his parents
- (B) to describe his new life with his aunts
- (C) to explain why children are so important to him
- (D) to show how much his life changed

7

Select **two** sentences that should be included in a summary of the first three paragraphs of the passage.

- A James had a wonderful life with his parents.
- B James was a trouble maker and bad child.
- C James' life changes after his parents die.
- D James is scared to go live with his two aunts.
- E James has to move away from the beach.
- F James' aunts are terrible people to live with.

8

Underline **two** sentences that **best** show examples of how the aunts are terrible people.

“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.”

Read the paragraph from the passage.

“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 hours every day standing at the bottom of the garden, gazing wistfully at the lovely but forbidden world of woods and fields and ocean that was spread out below him like a magic carpet.”

What does the use of the word wistfully suggest?

- Ⓐ James is happy with his view of the world.
- Ⓑ James wishes for more in his life.
- Ⓒ James is thinking about his parents.
- Ⓓ James does not want to leave the garden.

What lesson does James learn at the end of the passage? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

James and the Giant Peach Passage Answer Key

1. C

2. A

3. You can infer that James' parents were loving and kind. The first paragraph talks about how happy a life James had. It also says "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." In contrast to how he is treated by the aunts, you begin to see how wonderful his parents were.

4. D & F

5. Part A: C

Part B: B

6. D

7. A & C

8. "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."

9. B

10. James learns how life can change and become harder. He lost his parents and has to live with his mean aunts. His life is nice and fun at first but then he has no one or no toys to play with.



Thank you for downloading this resource!

I hope you found this resource helpful. Please consider leaving me feedback at [my store](#) or email me if you have any questions at creativeclassroom.tpt@gmail.com

Follow my store to receive notification of my latest products and freebies.

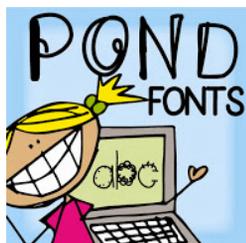
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/A-Creative-Classroom>

Terms of use:

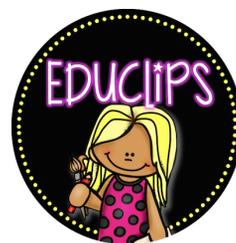
Copyright © a creative classroom. All rights reserved by author. Permission to copy for individual single classroom use only. Redistributing, editing, selling or posting any part of this product on the internet is strictly prohibited. Doing so is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Thank you for respecting my work!

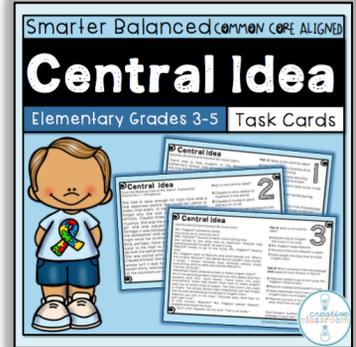
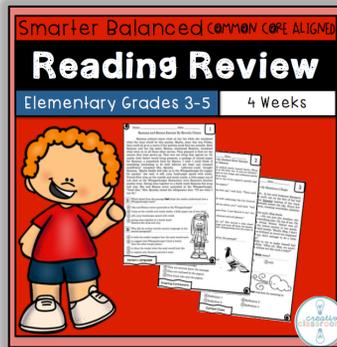
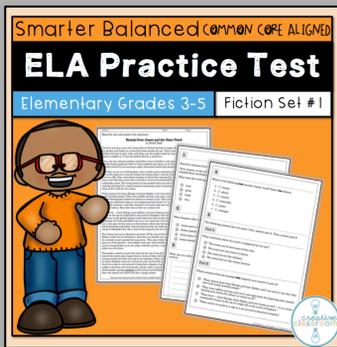
Font Credit



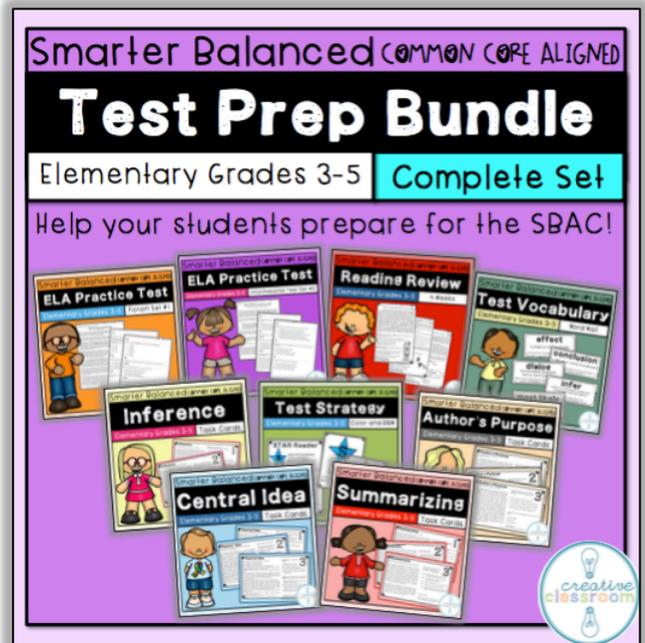
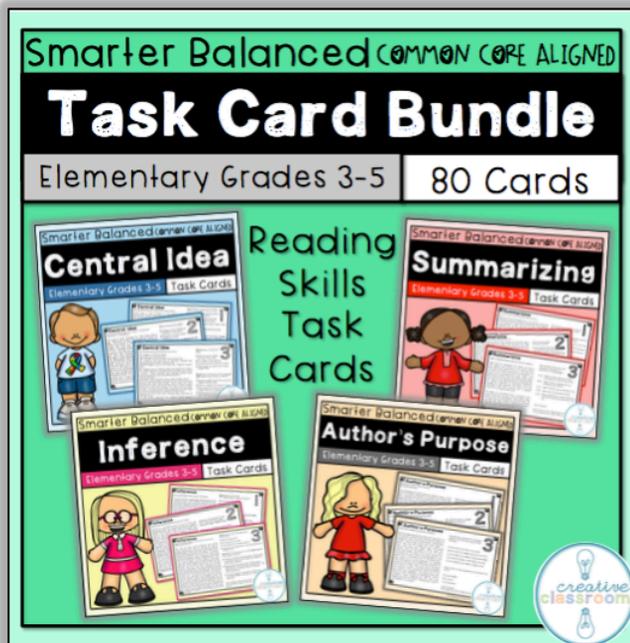
Clip Art Credit



If you liked this product, you might also like these resources.



Get more and save!
Reading Bundle



Want to see more?
Visit [my store](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/A-Creative-Classroom)

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/A-Creative-Classroom>

