

English: An extract from Chapter eleven of *James and the Giant Peach*

James's large frightened eyes travelled slowly round the room.

The creatures, some sitting on chairs, others reclining on a sofa, were all watching him intently.

Creatures?

Or were they insects?

An insect is usually something rather small, is it not?

A grasshopper, for example, is an insect.

So what would you call it if you saw a grasshopper as large as a dog? As large as a *large* dog. You could hardly call *that* an insect, could you?

There was an Old-Green-Grasshopper as large as a large dog sitting directly across the room from James now.

And next to the Old-Green-Grasshopper, there was an enormous spider.

And next to the spider, there was a giant Ladybird with nine spots on her scarlet shell.

Each of these three was squatting on a magnificent chair

On a sofa nearby, reclining comfortably in curled-up positions, there were a Centipede and an Earthworm

On the floor over in the far corner, there was something thick and white that looked as though it might be a Silkworm. But it was sleeping soundly and nobody was paying any attention to it.

Every one of these 'creatures' was at least as big as James himself, and in the strange greenish light that shone down from somewhere in the ceiling, they were absolutely terrifying to behold.

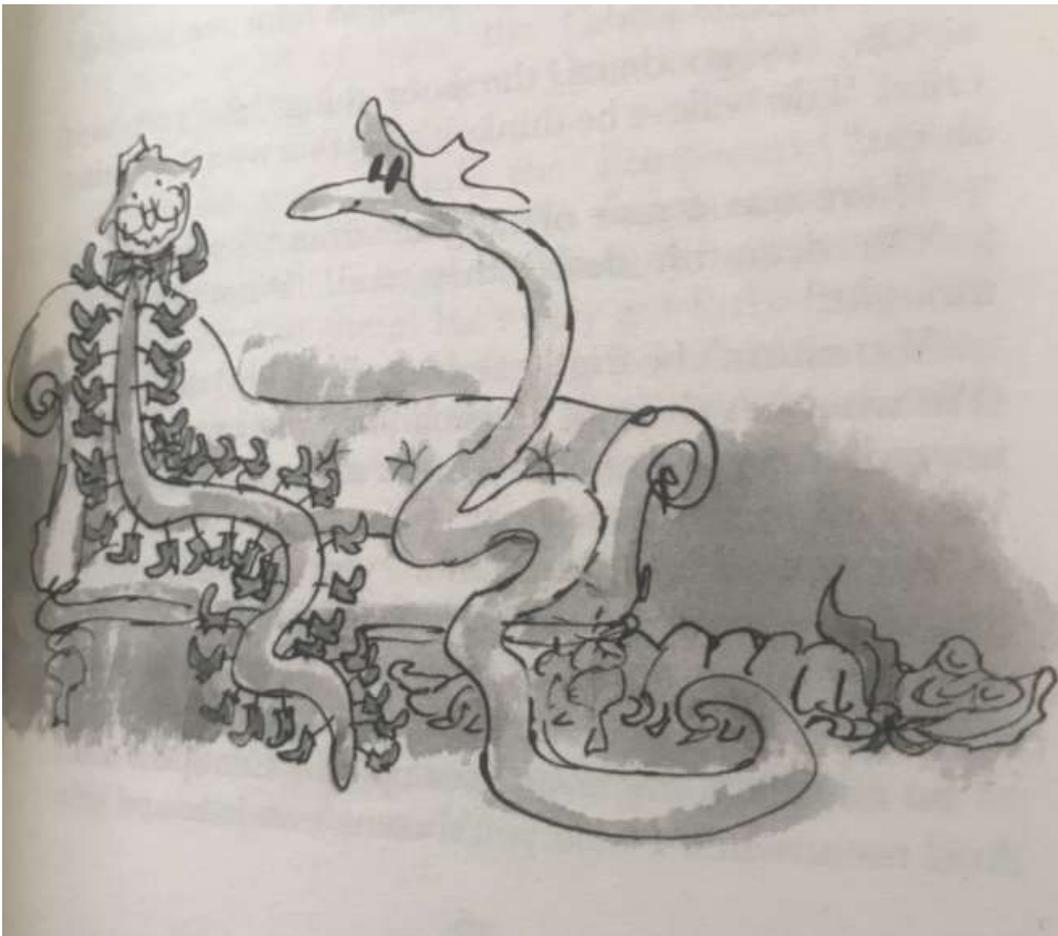
'I'm hungry!' the Spider announced suddenly staring hard at James.

'*I'm famished!*' the Old-Green-Grasshopper said.

'So am I!' the Ladybird cried.

The Centipede sat up a little straighter on the sofa. '*Everyone's famished!*' he said. 'We need food!'

Four pairs of round black glassy eyes were all fixed upon James.



**Draw it: What do you see when you read or listen to this extract?  
Draw and label a picture of it – add as much detail from the text  
as you can**

**Match each of these words from the text to its synonym:**

**travelled**

**crouched**

**reclining**

**declared**

**squatting**

**starving**

**announced**

**moved**

**famished**

**relaxing**

**Check it: Find and circle the mistakes and then rewrite it correctly below. Check the text afterwards to see if you have found and corrected them all.**

an insect is usually something rather small is it not

a grasshopper for example is an insect

so what would you call it if you saw a grasshopper as large as a dog as large as a large dog you could hardly call that an insect could you

**Answer it: Use the text to answer these questions**

1. Name all the different insects in the extract.
2. The creatures, some sitting on chairs, others reclining on a sofa, were all watching him ***intently***. Explain what the word ***intently*** means.
3. Explain why you think James's eyes '***travelled slowly round the room***'.
4. Find and copy the word that means the same as **hungry**.
5. Where was the '***strange greenish light***' shining from?
6. Describe how you think James felt when he heard the Centipede say '***Everyone's famished***'.

**Now continue the story in your own way in your own words. Add some drawings to bring your ideas to life.**
