

2016–2017 Season

CATCO IS  
KIDS!

# PLAYGUIDE

## JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH JR.

by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul  
adapted from the book by Roald Dahl

produced in association with  
Columbus Recreation and Parks

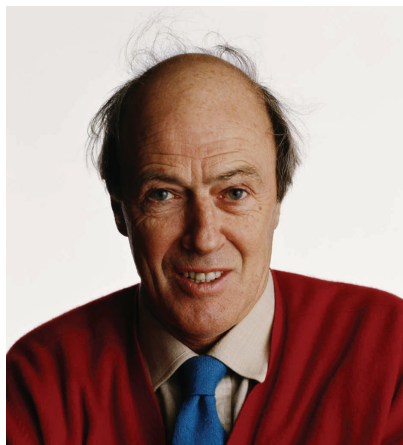
August 26–September 4, 2016  
Shedd Theatre, CPAC  
(Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave.)



### The Story

James is an orphan boy who is taken in by his atrocious aunts. When James is sent by them to chop down their old fruit tree, he meets a mysterious man and finds a magic potion that makes a peach in the tree grow to a gigantic size. Soon everyone wants to see the peach. Suddenly, James finds himself in the middle of the gigantic fruit along some human-sized insects with giant personalities. The adventure continues when the peach falls from the tree and rolls into the ocean. James and his new-found friends meet sharks, hunger, and James' aunts. Through their dangerous voyage, they learn the importance of friendship and community.

### Roald Dahl



A famed children's book writer, Roald Dahl was born in 1916 in South Wales. Throughout his education, Dahl was known for playing practical jokes and resenting his school's rules. Even in his youth, he yearned to go on adventures and see the world. When he was old enough to work, Dahl worked for Shell Oil Company in Africa and even joined the Royal Air Force and served as a fighter pilot in World War II. Dahl was injured in the war and lived in Washington D.C. While there, Dahl was encouraged to start writing by author C.S. Forrester. It wasn't until 1963 that Dahl became a well-known children's writer. The book he published was none other than *James and the Giant Peach*. Over his long writing career, Dahl wrote nineteen children's books, nine short story collections, and several television and movie scripts. Some of his most famous works include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and *The BFG*. How many have you read? Have you seen any movie versions?

# Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

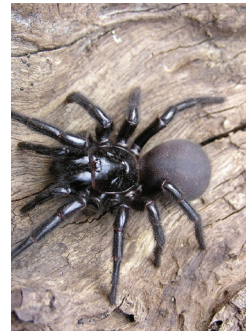


Songwriting duo Pasek and Paul currently live in New York City. They are both graduates of Michigan University, where they met and began working together. During their time as partners, Pasek and Paul have written music for many musicals and TV shows and are Tony Award and Emmy Award nominees. Two of their most well-known musicals are *James and the Giant Peach*, and *A Christmas Story the Musical*. Television credits include *Sesame Street* and the Disney Channel's *Johnny and the Sprites*. Pasek and Paul are currently working on many musical projects.

## Fun Facts



- Spiders are not insects; they are arachnids.
- There are around 40,000 different species of spiders!
- Ladybugs have black spots to warn predators to steer clear.
- Like bears, ladybugs hibernate.



- Grasshoppers have ears on the bellies.
- Grasshoppers chirp by rubbing their back legs against their wings.
- Earthworms live on every continent except Antarctica.
- Earthworms have no eyes or ears.



- Centipedes usually don't have exactly 100 legs.
- Centipedes can grow their legs back.
- Glow worms aren't really worms. They are beetles!

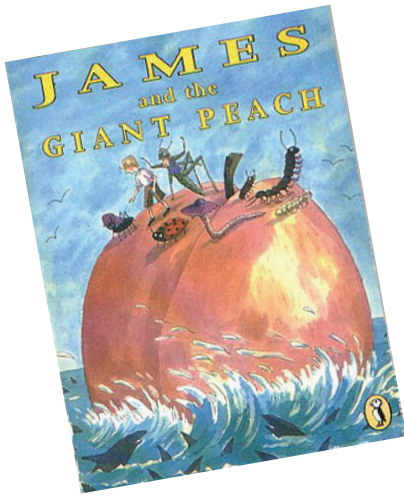


- Glow worms are nocturnal, meaning they are awake at night and sleep during the day.



# BEFORE THE SHOW

## Curriculum Connections



**Drama/Theatre: Grade 2**  
Cognitive and Creative  
Learning Processes:  
Producing/Performing 2PR

[Curriculum  
Connection](#)

You can use this Playguide and your visit to CATCO is Kids to help your students meet the curriculum standards required in schools by the Ohio Department of Education and the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Look throughout our Playguide for the icon

[Curriculum  
Connection](#)

and you will find academic standards that correspond with the different activities listed.



1. With a parent or guardian, go to your local library and borrow the book *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. Read it together with a family member. Take as much time as you need! Pick your favorite scene from the book. Use your imagination to think about how that scene would look in real life. After imagining it, draw a picture of what that scene might look like on a stage. What costumes will the characters wear? Will there be scenery? Share your picture with your family and friends. Do you think that scene in the play will look like your drawing?

Explore and demonstrate various design components of a scene.



**Drama/Theatre: Grade 3**  
Cognitive and Creative  
Learning Processes:  
Producing/Performing 7PR

[Curriculum  
Connection](#)



2. Look at the Fun Facts section in this playguide to learning more about insects and other bugs. Pick one of the bugs in the Fun Facts section and go to the library with a parent or guardian and find a book about that kind of bug. Using what you learned about that bug, pretend to be a human-sized version of it. How do you move to show that you are that bug? How do you talk? Is there a piece of clothing at home that you can wear like a costume?

Use elements and processes of theatre to integrate information from other academic content areas.



**Drama/Theatre: Grade 2**  
Cognitive and Creative  
Learning Processes:  
Creating ICE

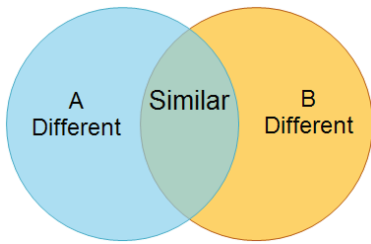
[Curriculum  
Connection](#)



3. Go to the local library with a parent or guardian and borrow *James and the Giant Peach*. Read the book together with a family member. As you read, write down who the characters are, the setting, the plot, and the main idea of the book. Using your list, begin to plan your own one-person shortened version of *James and the Giant Peach*. Find a family member or friend who has never read or heard the story and act out your version for them. Remember to play all of the characters!

Use elements and processes of theatre to integrate information from other academic content areas.

# AFTER THE SHOW



CCSS. ELA-Literacy. RL.2.9

[Curriculum Connection](#)



1. After seeing, CATCO's production of *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*, go to the library with a parent or guardian and borrow *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. Read the book with a family member. After finishing the book, think about the play and the book. Create a Venn diagram of what was different and similar in the play and book. Were a lot of things different? Was most of the story the same? Share your thoughts with a family member or friend.

Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.



CCSS. ELA-Literacy. W.3.3b

[Curriculum Connection](#)



2. Now that you have seen CATCO's production of *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*, pick your favorite scene from the play. Write down the characters, setting, and what happens in the scene. Using that list, begin to create your own version of the scene. Be sure to write what you think the characters would say about how they feel. Write down what actions the characters do in the scene. Once you have written your scene, act it out with family members or friends. Do you like your version of the scene? Do you need to change anything after reading it out loud? Make those changes and perform it again!

Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

Drama/Theatre: 3rd Grade,  
Cognitive and Creative  
Learning Processes:  
Producing/Performing 5PR

[Curriculum Connection](#)



3. Throughout the play, James has many different emotions: happy, sad, excited, etc. Remembering how James felt at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the play, pretend to be James and write a letter to one of the other characters in the play about your favorite part of the play. What would the letter say? How would James feel about the event?

Express a character's thoughts and feelings in writing.



# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

## Research Project



In *James and the Giant Peach*, James meets a ladybug, grasshopper, spider, earthworm, centipede, and a glow worm. Pick your favorite of James' buggy companions and go to the local library with a parent or guardian. Find a book about the bug that you chose. Look in the book for information about the bug's physical appearance and where it lives. Make a list of how its physical features help it live in its environment. Share your list with a family member or friend and draw a picture of the bug you chose!

Grade 3: Science–Life  
Science: Behavior, Growth  
and Changes–Recalling  
Accurate Science

Curriculum  
Connection

Name some physical features of plants and animals that are associated with the environment in which they live (e.g., coloration, location of eyes, type of feet).

## Peachy Words to Know

**Atrocious**—Appalling, horrifying, and utterly terrible

**Cliffs of Dover**—Cliffs, made mostly of chalk, in the English Channel

**Connoisseur**—An expert on a subject or product

**English Channel**—A small body of water between England and France

**Insignia**—A distinguishing mark, badge, or sign

**Jaunt**—A short journey

**Pithy**—Clever

**Pound**—The basic unit of money in the United Kingdom

**Scrumptious**—Delicious

**Telegram**—A message sent by wire



# CRAFT CORNER

## Silly Seagulls



In *James and the Giant Peach*, seagulls are very important in James' soaring adventure. Follow the instructions below to make your own seagull. What kind of thing will your seagull carry?

### Materials needed:

- a paper plate
- construction paper (optional)
- scissors
- a pencil
- paint (optional)
- glue (optional)
- your choice of markers, crayons, or colored pencils

### Directions:

1. Use a pencil to draw the pictured shape on the top edge of your paper plate.
2. Using scissors, cut the shape out and fold the sides of the plate down. These are the wings!
3. Paint or color the wings.
4. Cut a beak and legs out of construction paper and glue them onto the plate. You can also use markers, crayons, or colored pencils to draw a beak and eyes on the head.
5. Your seagull is ready!

### Source:

[www.creativitytakesflight.com/category/preschool-craftiness/page/6/](http://www.creativitytakesflight.com/category/preschool-craftiness/page/6/)

Want to check out another craft? Check out this peach coloring page: [http://prek-8.com/publicDomain/food/peach\\_outline.png](http://prek-8.com/publicDomain/food/peach_outline.png)