“James and the Giant Peach” Character Descriptions

James Henry Trotter - James is an orphaned boy who is forced into the care of his repulsive and abusive aunts, Spiker and Sponge, after his parents are killed by a rhinoceros. He wants nothing more than to have friends and playmates, which his aunts deny him. Something of a dreamer, James is, nonetheless, clever and ever-resourceful throughout his adventure in the giant peach.

Aunt Spiker - A dominating, cruel, malicious, and thoroughly repulsive lady, who derives a sadistic pleasure in manipulating and tormenting young James, who she sees as nothing more than a slave. Spiker is described as tall and thin - almost emaciated - with steel glasses.

Aunt Sponge - A lazy, greedy, and selfish woman, and equally as cruel and repulsive as her sister Spiker. Sponge is more or less dominated by Aunt Spiker, but attempts to save her own life instead of Spiker when she sees the giant peach rolling towards her.

Centipede - A boisterous rascal with a good heart. He is generally optimistic and even brave yet also loud-mouthed and rash, which gets him and his companions into some bad situations. The Centipede is extremely proud of being an actual pest and loves to brag about his many legs.

Earthworm - The Earthworm tends to have a gloomy outlook on life. He is paranoid and blind (having no eyes, like any earthworm), and often imagines that things are worse than they really are. The Earthworm is not without a warm, affectionate side.

Old Green Grasshopper – Is a sophisticated and jovial old fellow. He loves life and is a passionate musician.

Ladybug – Is good-natured and motherly.

Spider - is friendly and forthcoming. She has particular resentment towards Spiker and Sponge - especially Sponge, who is responsible for the cruel deaths of Miss Spider's father and grandmother.

Glowworm –An incessantly sleepy character, she doesn't speak often and is slow to move.

A large and active ensemble is used in this production. The following roles will be cast from the ensemble:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother</th>
<th>Father</th>
<th>Little Old Man</th>
<th>Crowd Member</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silkworm</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>First Officer</td>
<td>Second Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrators</td>
<td>Onlookers</td>
<td>Passengers/Crew</td>
<td>Cloud-Men</td>
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