

Boys: 9 - 10 years

## Suggestion One

James and the Giant Peach  
Roald Dahl  
(adapted by Richard R. George)

In this scene the Peach is floating further and further out to sea, bobbing along the waves. The Centipede looks towards the horizon and sees a thin black thing moving towards them. It is a shark. Soon there are more sharks and they begin to attack the Peach. Ladybird appeals to JAMES. Surely he can think of something before they are eaten alive.

### JAMES

There *is* something that I believe we might try. I'm not saying it'll work ... I ... I ... I'm afraid it's no good ... after all ... (*Shaking his head*) I'm terrible sorry. I forgot. We don't have any string. We'd need hundreds of yards of string to make this work ... the Silkworm? You can wake him up and make him spin? And you, Spider, can spin just as well as any Silkworm! Can you make enough between you? And would it be strong? ... I'm going to lift this Peach clear out of the water! With seagulls! the place is full of them. Look up there! (*pointing towards the sky*) I'm going to take a long silk string and I'm going to loop one end of it around a seagull's neck. And then I'm going to tie the other end to the stem of the Peach. (*JAMES points to the Peach stem*) Then I'm going to get another seagull and do the same thing again, and then another and another ... there's no shortage of seagulls. Look for yourself. We'll probably need four hundred, five hundred ... maybe even a thousand ... I don't know ... I shall simply go on hooking them up to the stem until we have enough to lift us.

## Suggestion Two

The Railway Children  
E. Nesbit

Bobbie, PETER and Phyllis move to a not very nice house in the country, close to the railway line. In this scene they have found a young boy lying in the tunnel with a broken leg, and they bring him home and call the doctor. The 'Railway Children' are waiting downstairs listening to the sounds of the doctor and the groaning patient. While the girls are distressed, PETER finds it very exciting. He teases them and suggests a game of bone-setting, giving his sisters an opportunity for revenge.

PETER

It *is* horrible, but it's very exciting. I wish doctors weren't so stuck up about who they'll have in the room when they're doing things. I should most awfully like to see a leg set. I believe the bones crunch like anything ... How are you going to be Red Cross nurses, like you were talking of coming home, if you can't even stand to hear me say about bones crunching? You'd have to *hear* them crunch on the field of battle - and be steeped in gore up to the elbows ... It would be a jolly good thing for you if I were to talk to you every day for half an hour about broken bones and people's insides, so as to get you used to it ... I'll tell you what they do, they strap the broken man down so that he can't resist or interfere with their doctorish designs, and then someone holds his head, and someone holds his leg - the broken one, and pulls it till the bones fit in - with a crunch, mind you! Then they strap it up and - let's play at bone-setting! ... I'll get the splints and bandages, you get the couch of suffering ready. (*He fetches ropes and two boards for splints*) Now, then. (*He lies down on the settle, groaning most grievously*) Not so tight. You'll break my other leg ... That's enough, I can't move at all. Oh my poor leg! ... Shall we play it's bleeding freely ... (*The girls move away leaving PETER tied up*) ... You beasts! (*He tries to free himself*) I'll yell, and Mother will come!