***The BFG***

***Chapter 5***

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* Sophie asks the giant not to eat her. The giant doesn’t really answer the question, which is not encouraging. He says it’s true that giants tend to eat people, and that she’s in Giant Country now.
* The giant gives the example of a Bonecrunching Giant he knows who only eats people from Turkey. When Sophie asks why, the giant explains that Turkish people taste like turkey. Logical.
* The giant goes on to name what people in different countries taste like. The Greeks taste greasy, humans from Panama taste like hats, Welsh taste fishy, humans from Jersey taste like cardigans, and the Danish taste like dogs.
* We should probably mention that the giant has a funny way of speaking, inventing and mispronouncing many words. He calls human beings “human beans.” Maybe they taste like beans.
* Sophie decides she might as well get her death over with and asks the giant what kind of humans he eats.
* The giant says that he’s not like the other giants, and doesn’t eat humans. He is the Big Friendly Giant. Sigh of relief.

***Synopsis (Ch 1-5):***

The story begins with the reader meeting Sophie, a young orphaned girl who lies awake in her bed at the orphanage, unable to sleep. She feels uncertain about what could be outside her window.

It is the dead of night. Curious about the world at this dark hour, she peers out her window and spots a "very tall and very black and very thin" giant (11). Sophie realizes he isn’t a human but it takes her a few moments to decide that it must be a "giant person" (13).

She sees the giant blowing something out from a trumpet and into the bedrooms of other children. As she watches him, the giant’s eyes suddenly flash to her, and afraid, Sophie tries to hide under her blanket. She waits under the blanket and tries to scream, but is too frightened.

However, the giant reaches through her window and plucks her out of bed. This time she does scream, but the giant takes her anyway. He carries her in her blanket as he gallops through the village.

Sophie finds the blanket very constricting and the ride very tumultuous. She sees the countryside whizz by at an impossible pace. Sophie curls up inside and worries that the giant will eat her for breakfast.

The giant runs across hills and valleys, rivers and forests, until he reaches his home, a cave in Giant Country. Inside, there are many jars stacked up high on shelves. Sophie is still worried that the giant will eat her.

Instead of eating her, the giant picks up Sophie gently and explains that while most giants do eat "human beans" (25), he, the BFG or Big Friendly Giant, does not. He explains the different flavors that human beings have, depending on what country they are from.

The reader is thrown into the journey with Sophie. The giant is shrouded in mystery and seems menacing at first, stealing Sophie from her home. We start in an orphanage and end in a completely new country.

From the beginning, the story foreshadows the true identity of the giant. Sophie worries that he will eat her for breakfast, but by the very fact that she hasn’t been hurt by him so far, we know that this is unlikely.

The descriptions of the journey are beautiful but describe a country that is flat and yellow. Giant country is full of dead trees. There is nothing hospitable about this place. There is a piece of humor injected when Sophie describes the giant pausing to catch his breath (22). This is the first instance of many where we will see the classic humor of Roald Dahl come into the story.

Sophie continues to worry about being eaten. She imagines the many ways in which she might die, until she sees the jars that fill the shelves of the giant’s home. Sophie is still frightened, but now she is even more curious.

While at first it seems like Sophie may be in danger, the giant named BFG turns out to be nice and friendly. Unfortunately, he is the only nice giant who doesn’t eat humans.

***Critical Study(Ch 1-5):***

The story begins with the reader meeting [Sophie](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-bfg/study-guide/character-list#sophie), a young orphaned girl who lies awake in her bed at the orphanage, unable to sleep. She feels uncertain about what could be outside her window.

It is the dead of night. Curious about the world at this dark hour, she peers out her window and spots a "very tall and very black and very thin" giant (11). Sophie realizes he isn't a human but it takes her a few moments to decide that it must be a "giant person" (13).

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***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

“You is about right! Giants is all cannybully and murderful! And they does gobble up human beans! We is in Giant Country now! Giants is everywhere around! Out there us has the famous Bonecrunching Giant! Bonecrunching Giant crunches up two wopsey whiffling human beans for supper every night! Noise is earbursting! Noise of crunching bones goes crackety-crack for miles around!” (5.6)

***Explanation 1:***

Wow, the BFG seems really excited about all this people-eating. Or matter-of-fact, at the very least. No wonder Sophie is terrified. At least, before he tells her he’s a vegetarian.

***Quotation 2:***

“I is hungry!” the Giant boomed. He grinned, showing massive square teeth. The teeth were very white and very square and they sat in his mouth like huge slices of white bread.” (5.4)

***Explanation 2:***

See what Roald Dahl is doing here? By comparing the BFG’s teeth to bread, he’s reminding us how close Sophie feels she is to becoming food herself. Fingers crossed the giant confuses his teeth for a snack instead.

***Quotation 3:***

“You is trying to change the subject,” the Giant said sternly. “We is having interesting babblement about the taste of the human bean. The human bean is not a vegetable.” “Oh, but the bean is a vegetable,” Sophie said. “Not the human bean,” the Giant said. “The human bean has two legs and a vegetable has no legs at all.” (5.21-23)

***Explanation 3:***

Sophie’s still trying to understand the way the BFG speaks, which is why she gets confused about bean vs. being. Especially since a “bean” is something humans eat, and humans are basically bean-sized somethings that giants eat.

***Quotation 4:***

The Giant picked up the trembling Sophie with one hand and carried her across the cave and put her on the table. Now he is really going to eat me, Sophie thought. (5.1-2)

***Explanation 4:***

Here we get another snapshot of Sophie’s tiny size: she fits on top of his table. She’s like the size of a plate, or maybe just a spoon. How could someone that small escape a giant? If we didn’t know the book’s initials stand for Big Friendly Giant, we’d think she’s screwed.