***The BFG***

***Chapter 6***

***The Giants***

* Sophie asks the giant why he snatched her up if he wasn’t planning on eating her. Fair question.
* The Big Friendly Giant explains that he had to take her because she saw him. He says if he left her there, she’d spread the word that there are giants and there would be a huge giant hunt. He thinks humans would put him in a zoo.
* The BFG tells Sophie she’ll have to live with him for the rest of his life.
* It’s not as easy as it sounds, though. He takes her to the cave entrance and has her peep out so she can see the rest of the giants and explains that they’ll eat her if they find her outside the cave.
* The giants are pretty tall and creepy-looking. They’re all just shuffling around, waiting for night so they can snatch more people to eat. Shiver.
* Sophie asks the BFG why he can’t stop them, but he explains that he’s a runt compared to them. Which sounds funny coming from a guy the size of four grown human beans, but we’ve got to take his word for it.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

The first thing you would be doing, you would be scuddling around yodeling the news that you were actually seeing a giant, and then a great giant-hunt, a mighty giant look-see, would be starting up all over the world, with the human beans all rummaging for the great giant you saw and getting wildly excited. People would be coming rushing and bushing after me with goodness knows what and they would be catching me and locking me into a cage to be stared at.” (6.6)

***Explanation 1:***

The BFG’s colorful description of a giant hunt is, sadly, on point. If people did believe there were giants, they’d probably be obsessed with catching him. The only thing the BFG might be getting wrong is by thinking that people will believe Sophie.

***Quotation 2:***

“How many giants are there out there?” Sophie asked.  
“Nine altogether,” answered the BFG.  
“That means,” said Sophie, “that somewhere in the world, every single night, nine wretched people get carried away and eaten alive.”  
“More,” said the BFG. (6.40-43)

***Explanation 2:***

It’s almost hard for Sophie to comprehend that these arbitrary, pointless deaths happen regularly. Deaths of people who are powerless to prevent themselves from being eaten. To describe that situation as unfair would be an understatement.

***Quotation 3:***

“I hated it,” Sophie said. “The woman who ran it was called Mrs. Clonkers and if she caught you breaking any of the rules, like getting out of bed at night or not folding up your clothes, you got punished.”  
“How is you getting punished?”  
“She locked us in the dark cellar for a day and a night without anything to eat or drink.”  
“The rotten old rotrasper!” cried the BFG.  
“It was horrid,” Sophie said. “We used to dread it. There were rats down there. We could hear them creeping about.” (7.14-18)

***Explanation 3:***

This horrific punishment—for children—is beyond unfair. It’s downright [**Dickensian**](https://www.shmoop.com/charles-dickens/). It’s also in line with how children in other Roald Dahl books are treated by adults. Thank goodness for being kidnapped by giants.