***The BFG***

***Chapter 8***

***Snozzcumbers***

* Poor BFG. The only food that grows in Giant Country is the snozzcumber. So that’s what he eats instead of humans.
* When Sophie says that snozzcumbers don’t exist, the BFG points out that she didn’t believe in giants yesterday. He also names a bunch of animals that Sophie’s never heard of, and they all sound like Dr. Seuss characters: the humplecrimp, the wraprascal, the crumpscoddle, and the great squizzly scotch-hopper.
* The BFG takes out a snozzcumber, which looks like a cucumber, only it’s half his size and covered in knobbles. In other words, it’s huge and looks gross.
* The BFG and Sophie get sidetracked again when Sophie corrects his word choice. He explains that he never went to school, nor had a mother who could teach him. Giants aren’t born—they just appear.
* The BFG hates the snozzcumber and sprays pieces of it on the table when he complains. Sophie tries it and cries out things like, “Oh help!” Apparently she’s not a fan, either.
* The BFG asks Sophie to stop correcting him about his word choices. He says his brain gets scrambled up, but Sophie tells him he speaks beautifully. Sometimes scrambling and beauty go together, even if they’re a little confusing at first.
* Sophie suggests the BFG take some vegetables from a garden in England, but the BFG says he doesn’t steal. Is this giant a great guy or what?

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

The BFG raised his great head proudly in the air. “I is a very honorable giant,” he said. “I would rather be chewing up rotsome snozzcumbers than snitching things from other people.” (8.53)

***Explanation 1:***

You’ve got to admire a giant with principles. The BFG not only doesn’t believe in eating humans; he doesn’t even believe in stealing from them. We have to admit, were we in his shoes, we might snatch a few less disgusting vegetables from time to time.

***Quotation 2:***

The BFG flung open a massive cupboard and took out the weirdest-looking thing Sophie had ever seen. It was about half as long again as an ordinary man but was much thicker. It was as thick around its girth as a perambulator. It was black with white stripes along its length. And it was covered all over with coarse knobbles. (8.15)

***Explanation 2:***

Ew. In this book, the BFG’s horrible vegetable snack looks as bad as it tastes. We’ll go to bed without dinner, thanks.

***Quotation 3:***

“You stole me,” Sophie said. “I did not steal you very much,” said the BFG, smiling gently. “After all, you is only a tiny little girl.” (8.54-55)

***Explanation 3:***

Here’s a glimpse of how Sophie looks to the BFG—like the tiniest thing. Sophie’s small size is as important to the story as the BFG’s largeness. And for some reason, being small means not being steal-able.

***Quotation 4:***

“Your brain is full of rotten-wool.” “You mean cotton-wool,” Sophie said. “What I mean and what I say is two different things,” the BFG announced rather grandly. (8.12-14)

***Explanation 4:***

Here’s another example of the author’s clever wordplay. By replacing “cotton” with the word “rotten,” he makes the BFG’s insult sound like even more of a burn.

***Quotation 5:***

Once again that sad and winsome look came into the BFG’s eyes. “Words,” he said. “is oh such a twitch-tickling problem to me all my life. So you must simply try to be patient and stop squibbling. As I am telling you before, I know exactly what words I am wanting to say, but somehow or other they is always getting squiff-squiddled around.” (8.43)

***Explanation 5:***

In the BFG’s mind, he is speaking perfect English. It just comes out wrong. We’d feel bad for him if we didn’t enjoy getting a bit squiff-squiddled from time to time.

***Quotation 6:***

“I think you speak beautifully,” Sophie said.  
“You do?” cried the BFG, suddenly brightening. “You really do?”  
“Simply beautifully,” Sophie repeated.  
“Well, that is the nicest present anybody is ever giving me in my whole life!” cried the BFG. “Are you sure you is not twiddling my leg?”  
“Of course not,” Sophie said. “I just love the way you talk.”  
“How wondercrump!” cried the BFG, still beaming. “How whoopsey-splunkers! How absolutely squiffling! I is all of a stutter.” (8.46-51)

***Explanation 6:***

If you weren’t sure how important speech is to the BFG, this should clue you in. One of his greatest desires is to speak well, and he’s got the whoopsey-splunkers to prove it.

***Quotation 7:***

“You mean you don’t even know how old you are?” “No giant is knowing that,” the BFG said. “All I is knowing about myself is that I is very old, very very old and crumply. Perhaps as old as the earth.” “What happens when a giant dies?” Sophie asked. “Giants is never dying,” the BFG answered. “Sometimes and quite suddenly, a giant is disappearing and nobody is ever knowing where he goes to. But mostly us giants is simply going on and on like whiffsy time-twiddlers.” (8.29-32)

***Explanation 7:***

The fact that giants disappear instead of die amps up the mystery element of the story’s magic. The BFG doesn’t know where he came from, or where he’s going. It’s hard to get much kookier than that. Especially when you throw in whiffsy time-twiddlers.