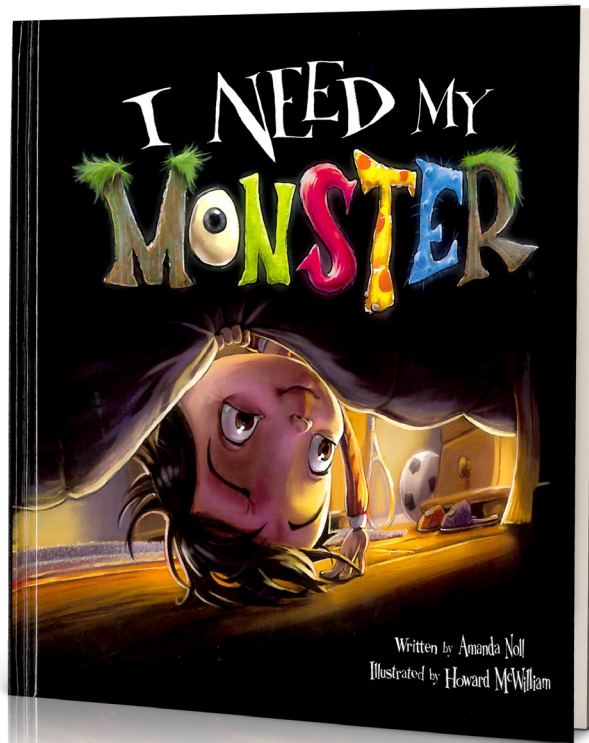


SAG FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Storyline online

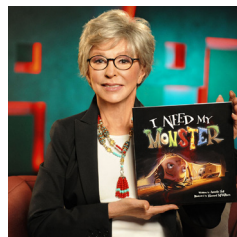


I NEED MY MONSTER

Written by: Amanda Noll

Illustrated by: Howard McWilliam

Watch online video of actor
Rita Moreno
reading this story at
storylineonline.net



BOOK SUMMARY

A monster-under-the-bed story to make you giggle: Ethan likes his monster, and even more, he needs him in order to fall asleep! One night, Ethan's monster, Gabe, takes off for a fishing trip, leaving a note promising he'll come back in a week. Since a week without sleeping worries Ethan, he auditions substitute monsters to stand in under his bed until Gabe returns. The author turns a common childhood fear into a reason for laughs, and the illustrations are as wonderful as the premise of the book.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- If you had a monster under your bed, would yours look like Gabe? What would *your* monster look like? How would your monster act and sound?
- Tell the story to another child, and draw your picture of the best part of the story.
- How did Gabe take care of Ethan by leaving a note for him?
- The same week can be a short time if you're on vacation but a long time if you're missing someone. When have you been in a situation where time was long for one person and short for another?
- Why did Ethan need a monster under his bed? Do you need one under your bed?
- Four substitute monsters tried out for the job of "Monster Under Ethan's Bed." Why didn't Herbert, Ralph, Cynthia, or Mack get the job?
- How did Ethan solve his problem?
- What was Gabe's problem?
- Why is Gabe a good match for Ethan?
- Why is Ethan a good match for Gabe?
- Sometimes you can't get everything you want; how do you know when to give in and accept something different from what you want?
- What do you do at night to help you get to sleep?

ACTIVITIES

- Pick a partner. One of you gets to play Ethan; the other plays Gabe. Explain why it is important to leave a note if you go away. Switch parts and go again. (Make sure the other doesn't worry, explain behavior, handle expectations, etc.)
- Pick a partner. One of you is Ethan, the other plays Herbert, Ralph, Cynthia, or Mack. "Audition" to be Ethan's monster while Gabe is away. What do you say? How do you behave? What do you say and do when Gabe says you're not exactly what he needs?
- Make a list of qualities you want in your own monster. How should he or she look? What should he or she should say or do? Gabe is friendly-scary—explain why he is not scary-scary.
- Using water bottles, bottle caps, scrap paper, crayons, etc., build a model monster to take home and put under your own bed.
- Pick a partner. Explain what helps you sleep at night the way Ethan likes to be scared to sleep. What do you do? Then switch, and the first explainer becomes the listener.
- Make up a song or poem about what it's like to get in your own way, the way Gabe scares fish.
- Be a monster! Show how you would scare a kid to sleep if you were a monster.
- Write a thank-you note to somebody who helps you be yourself the way Gabe helps Ethan. If you can, give that person the thank-you note.

MORE ACTIVITIES

Crafts and Recipes!

<http://spoonful.com/crafts/i-love-my-monster-pals>

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/blob-monsters>

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/handprint-monsters>

<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/284149057713543335/>

THEMES AND CONCEPTS IN THIS BOOK

- Can a monster be a good guy?
- What if it's a friendly, useful monster?
- Does calling something "monster" automatically mean it's bad-scary?
- What makes you feel scared? What makes you feel protected?
- Do your friends need to look like you to be your friends? Could you be friends with someone who snored or had big ugly nails?
- When should you compromise, and when is it important to insist on what you want?

BOOKS LIKE THIS ONE

There's a Nightmare in My Closet by Mercer Mayer

When Monsters Come Out to Play by Samantha Foster

Monsters Stole My Bedroom! by Julia Abby Thomas

Everything I Know about Monsters by Tom Lichtenheld

My Mama Monster Loves Me So by Laura Leuck

Goodnight, Little Monster by Helen Ketteman

Children Make Terrible Pets by Peter Brown

Go Away, Big Green Monster! by Ed Emberley

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amanda Noll grew up in Canberra, the capital city of Australia. She moved to the U.S. when she was ten, and now lives with her husband and four children in Washington State.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Howard McWilliam was a magazine editor and journalist before he became a cartoonist and illustrator. He lives in England with his wife Rebecca. He says the monster under his bed is named Brompton.

ABOUT THE READER

Rita Moreno is one of only a few EGOT actors: she has received two Emmys®, a Grammy®, an Oscar®, and a Tony®. She has also received the Latin Grammy® Lifetime Achievement Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of the Arts, and most recently, the 2013 Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement.

INTERNET LINKS

How to Be a Good Friend (with Tips and Examples)

www.wikihow.com/Be-a-Good-Friend

Parenting Science: Nighttime Fears in Children

<http://www.parentingscience.com/nighttime-fears.html>

Psychology Today: How to Get Children to Go to Sleep

http://www.ehow.com/how_2285798_get-children-sleep.html#ixzz2xCJld5z

Scholastic: Helping Children Communicate

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/helping-children-communicate>

Kids Health: Talking About Your Feelings

http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/thought/talk_feelings.html

Parents Magazine: Monsters Under the Bed: Understanding Kid Fears

<http://www.parents.com/kids/development/behavioral/understanding-kid-fears/>

Huffington Post: Night Fears In Children Explained: Fearful Kids Can't Separate Fantasy From Reality

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/19/night-fears-in-children_n_2719687.html

ABOUT STORYLINE ONLINE

The SAG Foundation's children's literacy website Storyline Online streams imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors to help inspire a love of reading. Storyline Online receives millions of views every month in hundreds of countries. Visit Storyline Online at storylineonline.net.

ABOUT THE SCREEN ACTORS GUILD FOUNDATION

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation provides vital assistance and educational programming to the professionals of SAG-AFTRA while serving the public at large through its signature children's literacy programs. Founded in 1985, the SAG Foundation is a national non-profit organization, independent from SAG-AFTRA, and relies solely on support from grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual contributions to maintain our programs and create new ones. For more information, visit sagfoundation.org.

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