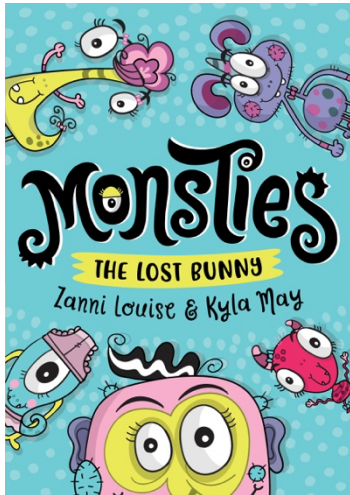


Teacher's Notes



Monsties: The Lost Bunny

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Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

6+ aged readers (grades 1-2)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
 - AC9E1LA03
 - AC9E108
 - AC9E1LE03
 - AC9E2LA08
 - AC9E2LE02

THEMES

- Friendship
- Kindness
- Problem-solving
- Fear

SYNOPSIS

The Monsties – Mig, Orla, Boo, Oops and Pearl – live right next door to the darkest corner of Scaryland. They would be scary enough to fit in, but they're not. Luckily, the Monsties have each other (and strawberry ice-cream)!

Every Monday, the Monsties go on their weekly shopping adventure to ScaryMart. But *this* Monday, Mig wakes up and something is very wrong – Bunny is missing! Mig can't imagine life without Bunny, and certainly can't imagine going shopping until Bunny is found. So, the Monsties break out their Essential Bunny Finding Equipment and set off to find Mig's missing friend.

Their journey takes them all the way through Scaryland to the middle of Big Scary Forest. But they don't find Bunny, only a deep hole, a terrifying bird, and a LOT of worms. The Monsties go home, and Mig is convinced that she will never see Bunny again. When they arrive home, they look everywhere, including under all the beds – but Bunny is still nowhere to be found! But before they give up hope altogether, Orla pulls out the mop she's been using and it turns out to be a very soggy, very sad Bunny! Orla, Boo, Pearl and Oops even make it to ScaryMart before it closes, just in time to fill their trolley up with plenty of strawberry ice-cream. Back at home, the Monsties gather around the fire and tell Bunny ghost stories while they eat.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Zanni Louise has been writing stories since she was little, growing up in country NSW. She now lives with her family of four in the Byron Bay hinterland. Author of over thirty kids' books, Zanni writes picture books, chapter books and books for 10–12-year-olds, and her books are sold in 20 foreign territories. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables, and her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for the highly prestigious international children's catalogue: The White Ravens.

Kyla May is an Australian illustrator, writer and designer. She is the creator and illustrator of over 50 books. Some of the book series she's worked on include *Juliet*, *Nearly a Vet*, *Diary of a Pug* and *Paris Takes Over The World*. In addition to books, Kyla has created several animated TV series for children and also designed toys. Kyla lives by the beach in Victoria, Australia, with her three daughters, two dogs and two cats.

THEMES

Working together

Even though the Monsties don't really fit in in Scaryland, they don't mind because they have each other. Their friendship helps them to solve problems because they work together to help each other. The main problem in the book is Mig's lost bunny, and all of the Monsties work together to help her find it, but there are many other examples of friendship and working together in the book as well.

Think about the scene where the Monsties all fall into a big hole.

- What is the problem?
- How do they feel about it?
- How do they work together to overcome it?

Find another example on your own and discuss the way the Monsties work together to solve a problem.

Friendship

Mig tells Pearl that she's a 'good friend' (p100). What has she done to show that she's a good friend? People (and monsters!) can show friendship in many different ways – they might say nice things, or offer practical assistance, or give up something they want to make a friend happy. All of these types of friendship are demonstrated at various points in the book.

Make a list of qualities that you think are important in a friendship. Share a time that you showed care to one of your friends.

Finish this sentence:

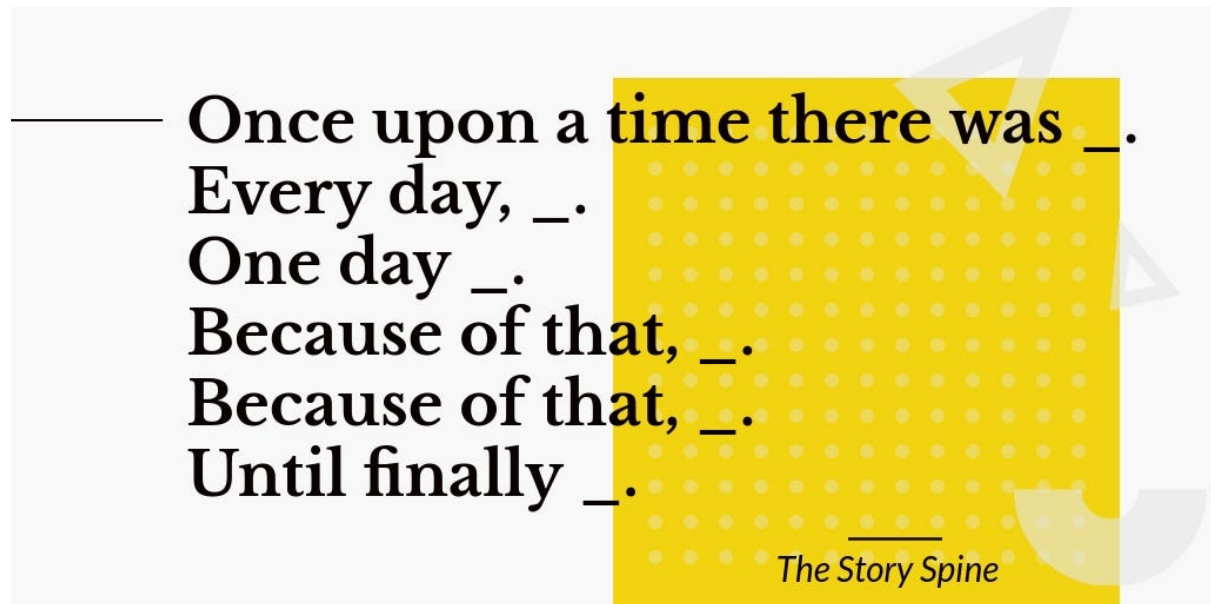
- Friendship is ...



WRITING STYLE

In *Monsties: The Lost Bunny*, the Monsties have to work together to solve the problem of Mig's lost bunny. This problem interrupts everyday life and sends the Monsties off on their adventure into Big Scary Forest. Discuss how solving problems and overcoming obstacles make stories more interesting for the reader. Ask students to share their thoughts on why this is.

The 'Story Spine' is an 8-step storytelling template, developed by Pixar, that writers can use to understand and build stories. (https://medium.com/@Brian_G_Peters/6-rules-of-great-storytelling-as-told-by-pixar-fcc6ae225f50)



Fill in the story spine using details from *The Lost Bunny*.

Another thing that makes a story interesting is **obstacles**. Obstacles happen when one of the characters wants something and something else is stopping them from getting it. What do each of the characters want in the book? What are some of the obstacles standing in their way?

COMPREHENSION

- What are each of the Monsties famous for? What are you famous for?
- What do all of the Monsties have in common?
- Why don't the Monsties quite fit into Scaryland? Have you ever felt as if you don't fit in somewhere?
- Do the Monsties look scary? Make a list of the things that make them look scary and a list of the things that don't make them look scary.
- What day of the week does the story begin on? What weekly adventure happens on this day?
- Write out all of the items on the shopping list (p15) – who do each of the items belong to?
- Why is Mig upset?
- What is the 'Bunny Detector' made of? Do you think it will work? Why/why not?



- Is there anything truly scary about Big Scary Forest? What are each of the Monsties afraid of?
- How does Pearl get the Monsties out of the hole they fall into?
- What makes Mig feel braver? Is there a particular smell that you find comforting in scary situations?
- Why is Orla just a teensy bit mad?
- Where do the Monsties eventually find Bunny? How do you think Bunny enjoyed their adventure?

WRITING EXERCISE

Use the Story Spine template (above) to create your own story idea. You can use the characters from *Monsties* or come up with entirely new characters of your own. Give your story a title and share your idea with the rest of the class.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

The Monsties are all very different from each other, and even though their differences mean that they don't quite fit in with the other creatures in Scaryland, they also make them unique. Pearl's long neck allows her to reach places the other Monsties can't, while Mig's long nose gives her a very good sense of smell. What are some of the other differences you can see between the Monsties? How do you think they might come in handy?

Draw a picture of yourself, trying to capture one of the features that makes you different from your friends.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Where do the Monsties live? Draw a picture of what you think the 'darkest corner of Scaryland' looks like.
- The Monsties go on a big adventure to find Bunny, but Bunny has a pretty big adventure too – imagine being used as a mop all morning! Write a scene from the book from Bunny's perspective.
- The Monsties gather their Essential Bunny Finding Equipment to go and look for Bunny. What is in the kit? Make your own Essential Bunny Finding kit, filling it with at least three things that might come in handy for finding Bunny.
- Draw a map of all of the places the Monsties look for Bunny in Scaryland. Where do they eventually find Bunny? How would you mark this on the map?
- Write a short review of the book, using these prompts to get you started.
- This is a book about _____ (character name/s)
- In the story, they _____ (the problem they have to solve)
- I enjoyed _____ (something you enjoyed about the book)
- People who liked _____ (a similar book) would like this book.



RELATED READING

Etta and the Octopus by Zana Fraillon

Polly and Buster by Sally Rippin

How to Make a Pet Monster: Hodgepodge by Lili Wilkinson

Barkly Mansion and the Weirdest Guest by Melissa Keil

