Monsters
By Anna Fienberg & Illustrated by Kim Gamble and Stephen Axelsen
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Tildy can see monsters that no one else can see and she sleeps with one eye open, until a new friend at school helps her overcome her fear - a delightful new picture book by the popular picture-book creators of Tashi.

Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:
- Monsters
- Night-fears
- Loneliness
- Courage
- Power of Friendship
- Reality / Fairy Tales

Discussion Questions & Activities:
- Have a class discussion to help students to make a distinction between imaginary stories (fairy tales, fables, monster stories) and reality.
- Are the monsters you see in Monsters and other books real?
- If someone draws something (like Hendrik does in Monsters) does that make it real? Or is still only in their imagination?
- Are the monsters real to some people, but not others? What kind of people would think they were real?
- How do you know that a drawing is of a made-up monster, rather than a real animal?
- Tildy takes a ‘real-world’ object – a large and heavy Oxford dictionary – out to the garden with her in case she is surrounded by lurking monsters. Do you think she would actually use it? What does she end up using it for instead? Why?
- If you were writing your own story about protecting yourself from monsters, what would you take with you?
- What things make you scared? Maybe it’s the dark. Or strange noises at night. Perhaps you’re worried that there might be monsters or creepy creatures lurking under the bed or in your wardrobe. Are all these things real? Or do they come from your imagination?
- What are some good ways to overcome your fears? Do you share your worries and fears with a best friend? Or talk to your mum or dad about them?
- CREATE YOUR OWN MONSTERS! There are many kinds of monsters in this book. You can find them lolling about on cushions, reading Tildy’s books, waiting behind curtains, peeping down hallways or hiding in the garden. How many monsters can you find on each page?
- Draw some monsters of your own. These could be: fierce monsters, friendly monsters, funny monsters or sad monsters. Give your monsters names.
- Tildy writes a letter to her many cousins with a list of questions about monsters. Write your own letter requesting information about monsters. Who will you send it to and what kinds of questions would you put in it?
- Complete the Monster Quiz that is attached.
- There are 2 colouring sheets attached for you to use with your students.
- Write and illustrate your own monster story! (see attached)
Can you answer these questions about the story?

1. When Tildy’s monsters came inside her house, they hid behind the …
   a. pot plants  
   b. curtains  
   c. door

2. Tildy had aunts and uncles and twenty-three …
   a. grandparents  
   b. nephews and nieces  
   c. cousins

3. Tildy’s Aunt Beetle travels the world and brings back …
   a. shrunken heads and  
   b. demon masks and  
   c. crocodile teeth and
c. voodoo dolls  
   dried scorpions  
   dragonfly wings

4. If you eat spicy food before bed, you might have bad …
   a. dreams  
   b. stomach pains  
   c. tooth ache

5. Tildy’s teacher is called Mrs …
   a. Cheetah  
   b. Cheerleader  
   c. Chaseling

6. When Tildy is invited to go camping at Hendrik’s place, she packs her pyjamas, a toothbrush and …
   a. some DVDs  
   b. a book of fairy tales  
   c. an Oxford dictionary

7. The first monster Tildy saw in Hendrik’s garden was behind the …
   a. washing line  
   b. garden shed  
   c. hedge

8. Tildy tells Hendrik she has to go home because her mother has ..
   a. the measles  
   b. chicken pox  
   c. the Plague

9. The monster that Hendrik draws for Tildy looks scared and …
   a. lonely  
   b. lovely  
   c. lost

10. At the end of the story, Tildy decides she likes looking
    a. in the mirror  
    b. at the moonlight  
    c. at the mountains
Colour in the picture and tell the story!
Colour in the picture and tell the story!
Write and illustrate your own monster story!

What will your story be about? Choose an IDEA for your story from Box 1, or think up your own.

Who will be in your story? Choose some CHARACTERS for your story from Box 2, or invent your own.

Where will your story take place? Choose a SETTING for your story from Box 3, or think up your own.

Some more things to think about ...
- What are some of the things that will happen in your story?
- How will your story end? Will it be happy or sad, scary or gruesome?

Now go ahead and write and illustrate your story.

Remember to use lots of imagination!