

Lights Out, Leonard

By Josh Pyke & Illustrated by Chris Nixon

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Leonard doesn't like bedtime, especially when there's a five-nosed, seven-tailed, eleven-handed, scaly-waily monster hiding in the corner of his bedroom. It seems like Leonard will never sleep again... until he discovers a mysterious book called *How to Frighten Monsters*.



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

Themes:

- Imagination
- Creativity
- Family
- Fears
- Problem solving

Discussion Questions:

- Read *Lights Out, Leonard* together as a class. What do you think the author is saying with this story?
- The story begins with talking about fears. Do you have a fear of something? For example, spiders, clowns, dogs.
- Why do you think Leonard says he isn't afraid of the dark?
- Besides Leonard's monsters, what are some other things that hide in the dark?
- What is your bedtime routine? Do you hate going to bed just like Leonard?
- On page 10, the author describes Leonard as 'lying on his back like a starfish'. Do you think this is a funny description? And how does comparing Leonard to this sea creature help the reader to understand what Leonard is doing?
- What does 'BEWARE OF THE CHILD' mean? Why do you think it was in the book that Leonard found?
- How has the illustrator drawn the monsters that Leonard sees?
- Do you think the monsters sometimes look like other objects in the room? For example, plants, the shape of furniture.
- Why do you think the illustrator has drawn Leonard in a fox onesie?

Activities:

- Think up some silly and inventive ways that Leonard could have tried to banish the monsters from his room. Write them as a list and present them to the class.
- Imagining that Leonard didn't find the book that helped him get rid of the monsters, write your own ending to the story.
- Discuss as a class the different ways people can say goodnight to each other. Does anyone in the class speak a different language at home, and if so how do they say 'goodnight' in their language? Write the list up on the board.
- Draw your own monster and write a description of it in a few sentences. Just like the author has done in the book, make sure to include how many legs, wings, tentacles, eyes, heads etc it may have.
- Working with only 4 colours, draw a scene – like your classroom or the kitchen at home – to explore how the illustrator used only a few colours for the whole book.