

Learning possibilities

Text: Allen, P 2001, *Inside Mary Elizabeth's house*, Puffin Books, Ringwood, Victoria.

Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Read the story and encourage your child/children to join in with the sounds that the monster makes. Draw children's attention to the changes that can be observed in the window of Mary Elizabeth's house.
- Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. What lived inside Mary Elizabeth's house?
 2. What did the boys say each time Mary Elizabeth told them that a monster lived in her house? (we don't believe you)
 3. Tell me what the monster looked like. (it had fur, claws, blood-shot eyes, pointy teeth)
 4. Why did Mary Elizabeth's mum say that the monster had to leave? (because he didn't wash or clean his teeth and he kept jumping on the bed)

Resources

Song

Let's Play Music 2018, *The Noisy Monster Song*,
<https://www.letsplaykidsmusic.com/noisy-monster-song/>

Video

Inside Mary Elizabeth's House – Pamela Allen (YouTube, Ellena Reads)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lumewnLbzBw>

Respond

The humour of this story is a feature that young children really enjoy. Invite them to discuss how they would feel if a monster chased them. What if the children could be the monster and chase others, how would that feel?

Extend

- Invite children to create their own monster through painting, drawing, collage or box construction. Before they begin, encourage them to talk about the features that their monster will have. 'Will it be a scary monster or a friendly monster?'; 'What might your monster like to do and eat?'; 'Where will it live?' These questions can be used to stimulate ideas and possibilities.
- In outdoor play, introduce a variation to 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' with 'What's the time Mr Monster?'
- Retell the story in an outdoor setting where opportunities exist to repeat all the loud noises that the monster makes.
- Discuss what might be a favourite monster munchie food. Children might like to make monster munchies using natural materials, for example: monster mud pies, sand soup, pebble pancakes.
- Make a monster face sandwich and discuss what foods could be used to make hair, teeth, nose, eyes etc.