

Year 7 English

Creative and Analytical Work on A Monster calls

Google classroom Code:

# CALLING YOUR MONSTER

*In this exercise, you will, from your imagination create your own personal monster.*

Monsters in stories are some of the most elaborate creations springing from the imaginations of storytellers. Conceived by imparting our deepest fears, flaws and weaknesses into an incontrollable fantastical literary tool for the relatively mundane hero to conquer. By pouring these fears, flaws and weaknesses into a defeatable entity, we not only become the master of them, but we experiment with ways to do this.

## CREATE YOUR MONSTER

In a list or in one or two paragraphs, create your monster by delving into the primordial soup of your imagination. Describe how they look, what personality traits they possess and what of those traits make them monsters!

## DRAW YOUR MONSTER

Do your best to draw your monster based on the description above and add any features you think they might need.



## ADD DIMENSION TO YOUR MONSTER

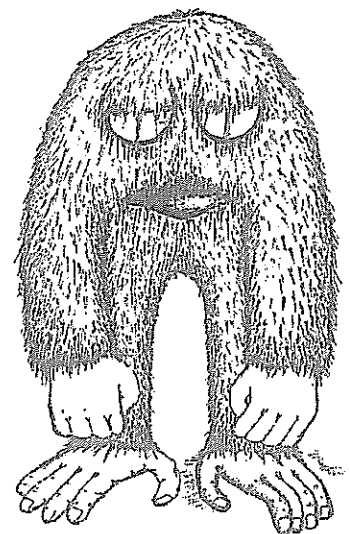
Talk about your monster's origin or history. Perhaps there were events that made your monster a monster.

## BRING YOUR MONSTER WALKING

Bring life to your monster. Write examples of the monster in action and the havoc it can wreak.

## SET YOUR MONSTER FREE

Now's the time to set your monster loose! On a separate piece of paper, create a hero and put this hero into a story interacting with or encountering your freshly created MONSTER.



## A Monster Calls

**MMM's - My Most Memorable Moments**  
(5 possible, 4 obligatory).

Find 4 - 5 moments of what you thought was the most impressive/scary/touching/funny/emotional/distastrous/disappointing/interesting part of the novel. You are to record representations of these moments.

You can choose any form you like:

- a written response ( max. 100 words)
- a drawing,
- a cartoon,
- a series of posters,
- a collage.

Be creative!

And use quotes from the novel.

Add page numbers, and make sure that with the non-verbal responses you add a short note why.



## Think, Pair, Discuss and Write...

1. Would the impact of *A Monster Calls* have been lessened if Ness had ever used the word "cancer?" Why or why not?
2. Why do none of the adults ever come right out and say to Conor that his mom is going to die? What do you think they're trying to accomplish? Do you think they're making the right call? Why or why not?
3. Why does it bother Conor that he gets special treatment at school because of his mom's illness? Is he bothered more by the negative attention (the bullying) or the positive (his teacher handling him with kid gloves)?
4. Why do you think Jim Kay chose to illustrate the book with harsh, wild lines, using only black, white, and gray? If you could illustrate this book, what look would you go for?
5. Why doesn't Conor's dad come to stay with him while his mom is sick? What makes him choose his American child over his English one?
6. Do you think Conor handles his mother's illness well? Why or why not?
7. How does the monster help (or hurt) Conor come to terms with his mother's cancer? Do you think Conor ever might have been able to face his grief without the monster's help?