

Go Away, Big Green Monster!

By Ed Emberley

This book describes the big green monster one feature at a time, then takes each feature away until there is no more monster. Don't come back until I say so!

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them to count (or count with you) the number of hairs on the monster's head.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒Have you felt afraid of something then realized it was not scary at all?
 - ⇒What do you do when you feel scared?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒What did the monster's teeth look like?
- ⇒What color was the monster's hair?
- ⇒What happened to the monster at the end of the story?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading "Go Away, Big Green Monster."



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MATH AND SCIENCE

Help the children practice counting by naming different body parts and having them count how many of that body part they have. For example, you could say, “How many toes do you have?” Help the younger children count. To increase difficulty, have the children count how many of that body part are in the classroom. For example, you could say “How many eyes are in the classroom? Don’t forget to count your friends’ eyes, your eyes, and my eyes!”

READING READINESS

Help the children practice reading comprehension by reading the story without showing them the pictures. Give each child a piece of paper and some crayons. As you read each description, give the children time to draw what they hear. At the end, show them the picture of the monster in the book and see how similar their pictures were to the picture in the book.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

This book names a few facial features. Practice more body parts by singing “Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes. Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes. Eyes and ears and mouth and nose. Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.” Have the children point to each body part as they sing.

MOTOR SKILLS

Have the children play “monster tag.” Pick one

child to be the “monster” who is trying to tag the other children. When the monster tags someone, the two children should link arms or hold hands. Those two are now the monster. When they tag another child, have them link to the group as well. Continue the game as the monster grows, finishing until every child is a piece of the monster.

THINKING SKILLS

Talk to the children about things they do when they get scared. Talk about how the narrator in this book gets rid of the monster, and ask the children for other ways to feel better when they are scared.

ART

Use brown paper bags or paper plates to create monsters. Help the children cut out pieces of construction paper for the main features of the monster. Let them use crayons to decorate the rest of the monster. Ask them what their monster’s name is and if he is silly or scary.

PRETEND PLAY

Pretend you and the children are silly monsters. Describe yourself to give the children ideas of what they could look like as a monster. For example, you could say “I’m a monster named Billy Bob! I have pink and green hair and I only walk backwards!” Have the children come up with their own characters and describe themselves to you. You can even use dress up clothes or masks to make things more fun!

