



## READING

# FRED and the MONSTER

### OBJECTIVE

To ask and answer questions about FRED AND THE MONSTER in order to deepen students' insight and perspective

### SKILLS

Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges, make logical inferences, analyze how and why individuals interact, describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story.

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Following is a list of questions for teachers and/or parents to discuss before, during and after reading **FRED AND THE MONSTER**.

### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BEFORE READING

- Are you afraid of the dark? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- What, if anything, are you afraid of? Why?
- Why do you think some people are afraid of the dark?
- Has your mother or father ever forced you to confront a fear before you were ready? When? What happened?
- Name some ways that a person can overcome a fear.
- What is courage? Give some examples of courageous acts.
- Do monsters exist? Why or why not?
- What is a monster? Can you describe what a monster looks like?
- What, if anything, might a monster be afraid of?
- Could a monster be friendly? How or in what way?



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# FRED and the MONSTER

### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED WHILE READING

(Some of these questions should be asked before turning certain pages. For example, when Fred hears the monster speak from beneath his bed, before turning the page, ask students to describe what they think he will see. Students can also draw illustrations of what they imagine.)

- What is a spark of courage? Is it real? Do you have a spark of courage inside of you? Where is it? In your stomach? In your heart? In your head? What other things exist as sparks?
- The story says, •Darkness surrounded him like a bat's wings.•This is called a simile. What are some other things you can compare darkness to?
- What other noises might you imagine yourself hearing when you're afraid at night?
- When Fred peeks under his mattress, (before turning the page) ask students to imagine/ describe what Fred will find.
- Is it strange that the monster is afraid? Why or why not?
- Is it true that monsters aren't supposed to be afraid of anything?
- Have you ever mistaken a shadow in the night for something that it wasn't? Where were you? What did you think you saw? What was it really?
- Was it right or wrong for the monster to whip the bee?
- Why does Fred leave his flashlight with the monster?
- Why does Fred set his spare flashlight on the bedside table before falling asleep?

### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED AFTER READING

- What can we learn from reading **FRED AND THE MONSTER**?
- Why do you think Fred was afraid of the dark?
- Why was the monster afraid of the dark?
- Do you think Fred's mother did the right thing by turning off the light and forcing Fred to sleep in the dark? What might have happened if she had waited another week, month, year?
- How do you think the monster entered Fred's bedroom without being discovered?
- Is it possible to befriend a monster? Why or why not?



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