



Monster Needs a Party

BY PAUL CZAJAK * ILLUSTRATED BY WENDY GRIEB

Growing up with Monster is fun! He has all sorts of things to learn and experience for the first time, and the young boy who takes care of him will help him along the way. Written in humorous, read-aloud verse, the Monster & Me™ series makes growing up a whole lot easier and a lot more interesting.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Czajak got an F with the words “get a tutor” on his college writing paper and after that, never thought he’d become a writer. But after spending twenty years as a chemist, he knew his creativity could no longer be contained. Living in New Jersey with his wife, and two little monsters, Paul has rediscovered his passion for writing and looks forward to sharing his stories for years to come. He is also the author of *Seaver the Weaver*.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Wendy Grieb is a storyboard artist, illustrator, and teacher. She has worked on a variety of productions and won an Annie Award for storyboarding in 2004. She has also been an animation development artist, children’s book illustrator, and character designer for companies such as Disney, Nickelodeon, Sony, Klasky-Csupo, White Wolf, and more. She was a storyboard artist at Disney TV for sixteen years and has worked on Disney’s hit TV show *Phineas and Ferb*. She also teaches animation at California State University–Fullerton.



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



Read It!

ABOUT THE BOOK

That time of year is finally here: Monster's birthday has arrived! But when none of his friends can attend his party, it's up to Boy to cheer him up. With pirates, prizes, and playful rhyme, this story is sure to surprise readers until the very last page.



BEFORE YOU READ

- ▶ **Preview the Words to Know.** Go through the words and their meanings with students. Tell students to pick one word. Ask: *What does this word make you think of?* Have students write sentences using their chosen words.
- ▶ **Read aloud the title of the book.** Ask students to remember a party they've been to. Share experiences as a class or in small groups.
- ▶ **Study the cover of the book.** Ask: *What are you curious to learn about this book? What do you think Monster wants to celebrate?*



WORDS TO KNOW

buccaneers (buhk-uh-NIHRZ): pirates

celebrate (SEL-uh-brate): to do something fun on a special occasion

cursed (KURSSD): affected by something bad

decorate (DEK-uh-rate): to add things to improve the appearance of something, such as a party room

doubloons (duh-BLOONZ): old coins of Spain or Spanish America

glum (GLUHM): in a gloomy or bad mood

jamboree (jam-buh-REE): a large party with music or other entertainment

pantaloon (pan-tuh-LOONZ): wide and loose ankle-length pants

persistent (pur-SIS-tent): to continue to do something even though it may be difficult

pouted (POUT-id): to have pushed out your lips when upset or disappointed

swat (SWAHT): to hit something with a fast and sharp blow

EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



Know It!

DISCUSS THE BOOK

- › **Birthday Blog:** Monster's birthday is over, and he wants to write about his day. Tell students to pretend they are Monster. Ask them to write a blog posting on **page 6** about everything that happened on their birthday. Remind students to explain the *who, what, where, when, why, and how* of the story.
- › **The Big Idea:** Tell students that many stories have a central message. This message can be a life lesson or a moral that characters learn. Ask students to think about the big idea in *Monster Needs a Party*. Ask: *What does Monster learn about celebrating his birthday?* Discuss answers to this question as a class.
- › **More than Words:** Discuss with students how picture books contain important visual clues about the meaning of stories. Illustrations are just as important as the words. Ask students to pick a spread from the book. They should study both the words and the illustrations. Ask: *What do the illustrations tell you about this part of the story that the words do not?* Provide some clues: look at the characters' faces, the illustrations' colors, and the scene. Pair students up to discuss their ideas.



MAP IT OUT

- › **My Party vs. Monster's Party:** Ask students to recall their favorite party. Tell them to think of the details that made it special. Then instruct students to complete **page 8** of this guide. Make sure students record specific details from their memory and the book.
- › **Story Map:** Explain to students that all stories have some basic elements. These include beginnings, middles, and ends. Certain events happen at certain times. Ask students to think about the beginning, middle, and end of *Monster Needs a Party*. Then ask them to complete **page 9** of this guide.

WRITE ABOUT IT

- › **The Perfect Party:** Group four to six students together. Provide books in the classroom on parties and celebrations. Then ask students to complete **page 7** of this guide. When finished, ask groups to share their reports with the class.
- › **Disappointing News:** Tell students they will be writing an opinion statement. Explain that in the story, Monster gets some disappointing news. His friends can't make it to his birthday party. Ask: *How do you think Monster reacts to this news?* Tell students to each write a paragraph stating their opinion. Students should use details from the book to support their opinion.
- › **A Really Fun Party:** Tell students they will be writing a narrative. Explain that a narrative is a story, real or imagined, that describes an event. Ask students to remember or imagine a really fun party. Tell them to write a short story about the party, including characters and dialogue. Students can draw images to go along with their stories.

EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



Try It!

FUN ACTIVITIES

- › **Party Planner:** Ask students to imagine they will be a throwing a party for their classmates. Where will they hold the party? What will they need to buy? What will they make? Tell students to fill out **page 10** of this guide with their party plans. As an extension, pick one party plan to follow. Students in the class can complete different parts of the party plan.
- › **Pirate Land:** Create Pirate Land in your classroom! Ask students to come up with their own versions of the rides and games at Pirate Land. Set up stations in the classroom for each “ride” or game. Invite students to join in the fun and move from station to station.
- › **Party Hats:** Monster wears a pirate hat for his party. What kinds of party hats can students create? Provide different materials for students to create one-of-a-kind party hats. Ask them to create hats that go with a certain party theme. Then have a party hat fashion show when everyone is done.

CONNECT

- › Listen to the Beatles’ song “Birthday.” Print out the lyrics for the class to follow along with. Ask students to pick out their favorite parts of the song. Ask: *What do the lyrics say about how to celebrate a birthday?*
- › Tell students that people often think about their age when having a birthday. Write this Abraham Lincoln quote on the board: “In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” Ask students to consider what Lincoln meant by this.



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



EXPLORE MORE

Visit the following websites to learn more about parties and pirate activities:

- ▶ **Hungry Pirates game. PBS Kids.**
<http://pbskids.org/peg/games/hungry-pirates>
- ▶ **Party Food. Kidspot Kitchen.**
<http://www.kidspot.com.au/best-recipes/Party-food+11.htm>
- ▶ **Pirate Eye Patch. Free Kids Crafts.**
<http://www.freekidscrafts.com/pirate-eye-patch>



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

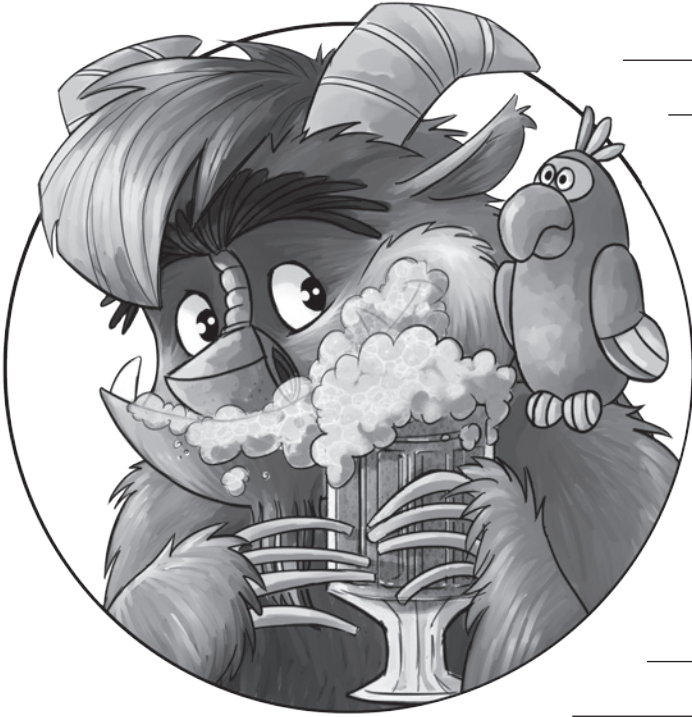
The activities and discussion questions in this guide support the following Common Core State Standards.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.7	Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8	Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1	Ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i> , <i>what</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>why</i> , and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2	Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3	Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.5	Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7	Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1.A	Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

MONSTER NEEDS A PARTY

Birthday Blog

You're Monster and you've had the best day ever celebrating your birthday. You want to tell everyone about the events of your special day. Write a blog post from Monster. Explain the *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* of the day.

[illegible][illegible]

MONSTER NEEDS A PARTY

The Perfect Party

Read some books on throwing parties. Think about the great times Monster had on his birthday. What makes a great party? As a group, write a short report about your idea of the “perfect party” on the lines below. Be sure to discuss your research in your report.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

MONSTER NEEDS A PARTY

My Party vs. Monster's Party

Think about your favorite party. How was it the same as Monster's party? How was it different?

Write the details below. How does your party compare to Monster's birthday celebrations?

A Venn diagram consisting of two large, overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled "MY PARTY" and the right circle is labeled "MONSTER'S PARTY". The overlapping area in the center is blank for comparison. There are two cartoon illustrations of monster parties. One illustration, located in the top right, shows a group of monsters in a shopping cart, with one monster holding a baseball bat. The other illustration, located in the bottom left, shows a group of monsters in a shopping cart, with one monster holding a flag with a skull and crossbones.

MONSTER NEEDS A PARTY

Story Map

What happens in *Monster Needs a Party*? Map out the key details here.

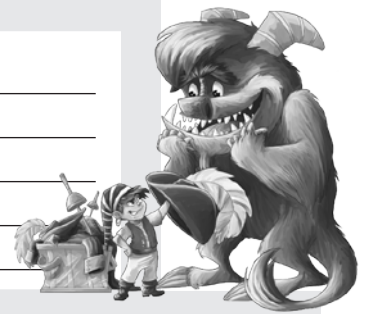


CHARACTERS: _____

SETTING: _____

BEGINNING, MIDDLE, END

AT THE BEGINNING: _____



THEN: _____



FINALLY: _____



MONSTER NEEDS A PARTY

Party Planner

Fill in the details for your class party. Be creative and think of things you can make, rather than buy.

OCCASION: _____

WHO (GUEST LIST)

_____	*	_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____	*	_____

WHAT (THEME): _____

WHERE (PLACE): _____

WHEN (TIME AND DATE): _____

REFRESHMENTS

_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____

ACTIVITIES

_____	*	_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____	*	_____
_____	*	_____	*	_____

FAVORS: _____

SCHEDULE: _____

