

Monster Needs Your Vote

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.



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 20 years as a chemist, he knew his creativity could no longer be contained. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and two little monsters. In addition to the Monster & Me™ series, he’s also the author of *Seaver the Weaver*.

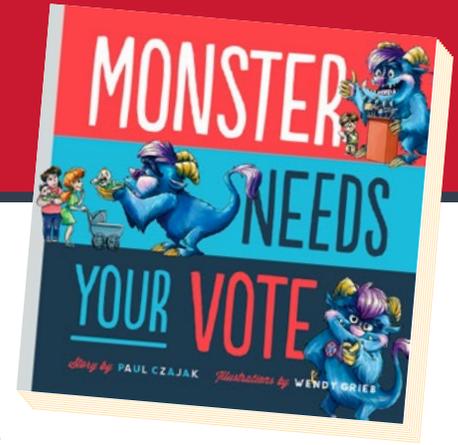


ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Wendy Grieb is a professional working in the Los Angeles animation industry and teaching animation. She is also an Annie Award–winning storyboard artist, who has worked as a developmental artist, illustrator, and character designer for companies such as Disney, Nickelodeon, Sony, Klasky-Csupo, White Wolf, and more. She lives in Yorba Linda, California.



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



Read It!

ABOUT THE BOOK

Election season is here and Monster is ready to vote! But why cast your ballot when you can run for president? With speeches, debates, and a soapbox or two, Monster's newest tale is a campaign encouraging kids to take a stand and fight for what they believe in.



BEFORE YOU READ

- › **Discuss the book's title.** Ask students if they know what it means to vote. Ask: *Who votes? For what or whom do they vote?* Then explain or discuss the voting process with students.
- › **Examine the book's cover art.** Ask students what Monster appears to be doing on the cover. Ask: *What do Monster's activities on the cover have to do with voting? What do you think might happen in the book?*
- › **Preview the Words to Know.** Discuss each word and its meaning with students. Tell students to look for these words as they read the book.

WORDS TO KNOW

campaign (kam-PAYN): organized action done to achieve a certain goal

convey (kuhn-VAY): to tell or communicate

debate (di-BATES): a discussion featuring different viewpoints

discouraged (dis-KUR-ijd): feeling less sure or excited about something because of some difficulty

disgrace (dis-GRASE): something that causes a person to feel shame or disapproval

flair (FLAIR): a natural ability or skill

grassroots (gras-ROOTS): a political movement organized by a community and relating to the common people

inspired (in-SPIRED): influenced and encouraged by someone to achieve something

naught (NAWT): nothing

opposition (ah-puh-ZISH-uhn): resistance to or disagreement with someone or something

oratory (OR-uh-tor-ee): the art of making speeches

passion (PASH-uhn): a great faithfulness to or excitement for something

persistent (pur-SIST-uhnt): continuing to do something even when faced with difficulties

platform (PLAT-form): a statement of beliefs of a group

politics (PAH-li-tiks): the activities and discussions involved in governing a city, state, or country

resign (ri-ZINE): to give up a job, a position, or an office by choice

succeed (suhk-SEED): to achieve or accomplish something

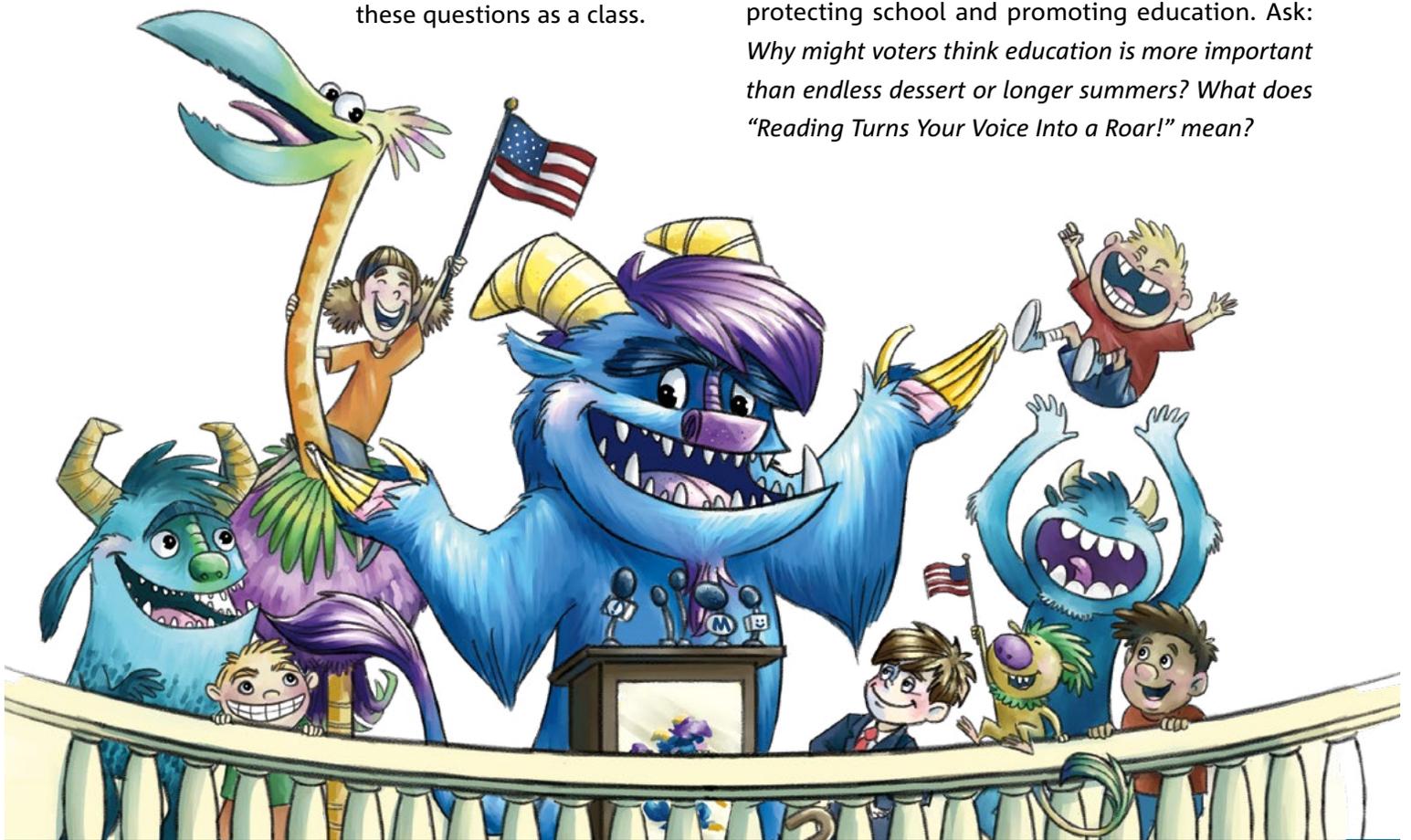
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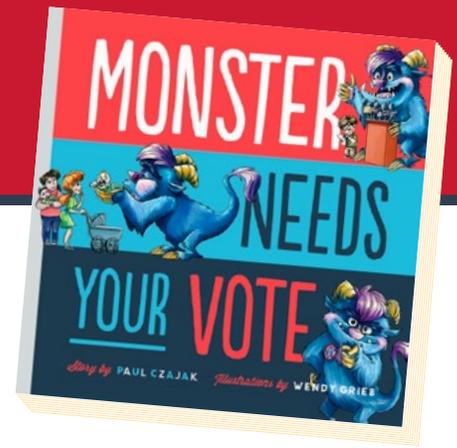
Know It!

DISCUSS THE BOOK

- › **Ask Monster:** Monster gives a speech during a meeting at Town Hall. Have students pretend they are in attendance at this meeting. Have them think of questions they would ask Monster about his campaign. What do students want to know about the changes Monster wants to make?
- › **Winning Words:** Review the Words to Know as a class. Discuss with students what parts of the story represent the meaning of each term. Ask: *What is Monster's campaign? What is his platform? What makes Monster feel discouraged? When is Monster persistent?* Discuss answers to these questions as a class.
- › **What's the Issue?:** Monster addresses several issues in the book, some of them silly or improbable. As he learns more about politics and which issues are important to voters, Monster changes his platform to focus on education and literacy. Discuss all the issues mentioned in the book with students. Ask them to distinguish between the silly or improbable issues and the more serious issue of education Monster becomes passionate about. Lead a discussion with the class on why Monster may have gained more momentum once he switched his platform to protecting school and promoting education. Ask: *Why might voters think education is more important than endless dessert or longer summers? What does "Reading Turns Your Voice Into a Roar!" mean?*



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WRITE ABOUT IT

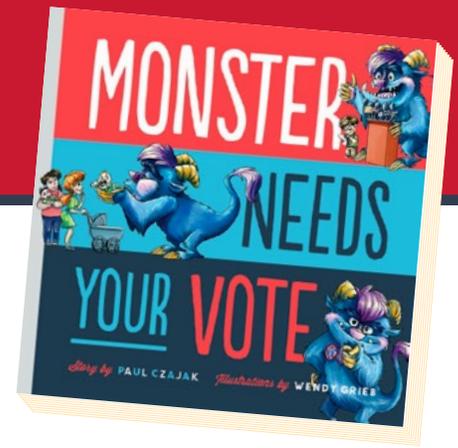
- › **Presidential Profile:** As a class, research the current president of the United States. Have students take notes and write a short bio of the president. This should include his or her name and age, the year he or she went into office, and at least one main issue or goal the president is working toward.
- › **Plan in Action!:** Have students pretend that they are Monster, advocating for education and against closure of their local library. In what ways will they campaign for this cause? Have students write a list of actions they could take to influence voters and inspire people to join the cause. Have them complete the activity on **page 10**, *Talk to Your President!*, promoting their cause.

MAP IT OUT

- › **Who Can Run?:** Monster learns a person must be 35 years old to run for president. As a class, research the other requirements a presidential candidate must meet. Create a list and have students use this information to complete the first part of the activity on **page 9**. Then instruct them to complete the second part of the activity. Ask: *What qualifications are not required in a candidate but are still necessary for a good president?*
- › **Monster's Action Map:** Monster promotes his campaign in many ways. Some of the strategies he uses are different for each issue. For example, his speech at Town Hall focuses on dessert for dinner, while going door to door is to protect schools and promote education. He takes other actions as well, such as making signs and appearing on TV. Instruct students to complete the Venn diagram on **page 8** to find out how Monster's campaign strategies for each issue are different and the same.



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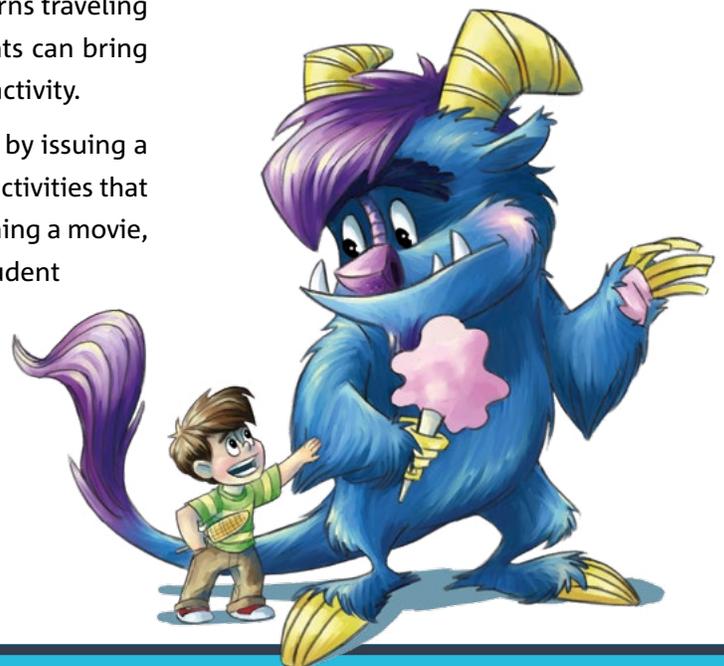
Try It!

FUN ACTIVITIES

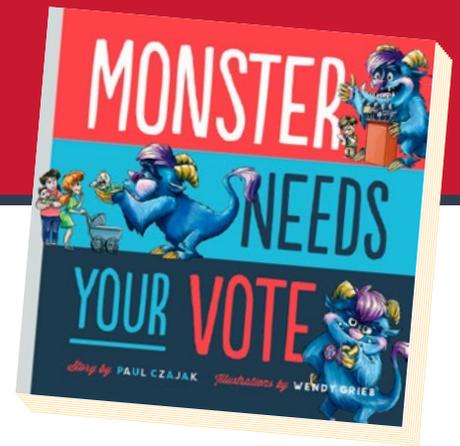
- ▶ **Discuss & Debate:** Choose an issue for your class to debate. This could be something general, such as why music class should be a part of school curriculum. It could also be specific to your school, such as arguing for or against getting new basketball hoops for the school gym. Announce the issue to the class. Then divide students into two groups. One will argue for the issue. One will argue against it. Direct each group in a discussion planning a debate. Once the debate begins, have students take turns giving rebuttals so everyone gets a chance to participate.
- ▶ **Colorful Campaign Art:** Create a list of issues the majority of the class is passionate about. This could include the issue from Discuss & Debate or anything else serious or silly. Then, have students make colorful posters supporting these issues. The posters can be hung around the room. Students can also use them in the activity below, Push the Issue.
- ▶ **Push the Issue:** Monster goes door to door to talk with voters about saving the library and promoting education. Instruct students to pick an issue they are passionate about. Then set up small-group stations in the classroom. Have individual students take turns traveling to these stations to make a case for their issue. Students can bring along the campaign poster they made in the previous activity.
- ▶ **Vote for Fun!:** Incorporate a fun activity or special treat by issuing a vote. Create paper ballots with a list of special treats or activities that can be done in the classroom. These could include watching a movie, free art time, or a special treat after lunch. Have each student fill out a ballot, choosing one activity or treat. Tally and reveal the results. Then, follow through with the campaign promise and incorporate the treat or activity. Students will experience the results of voting for themselves!

CONNECT

- ▶ **Read *Duck for President* by Doreen Croni.** Lead a discussion with students comparing the book to *Monster Needs Your Vote*. Ask: *How are Monster and Duck similar in these stories? How are they different? What do both books teach the reader about voting and presidents?*
- ▶ **Look up Kid President online.** Read his blog and watch his videos on his website or on YouTube. Discuss his platform and the way he communicates as a class. Ask students if they think Kid President would make a good president as an adult. Why or why not?



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



EXPLORE MORE

Visit the following websites to learn more about voting and presidents:

- ▶ **The US Presidents.** USA 4 Kids.
<http://www.usa4kids.com/presidents/Presidents.html>
- ▶ **The Democracy Project.** PBS Kids.
<http://pbskids.org/democracy>
- ▶ **Ben's Guide to the US Government.**
GPO: US Government
Publishing Office.
<http://bensguide.gpo.gov>



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

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

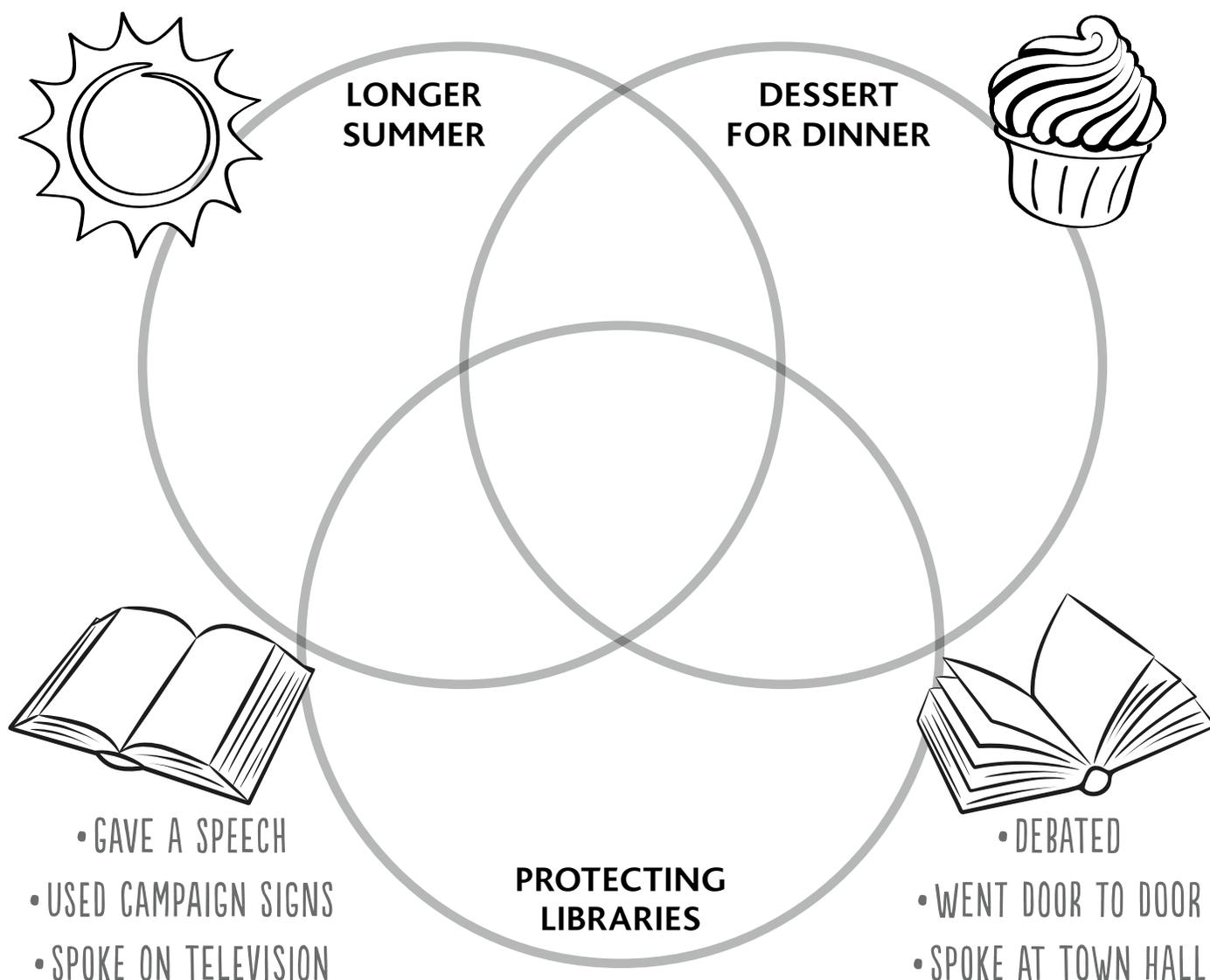
| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1 | Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. |
| CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 | Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. |
| CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.4 | Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area. |
| CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.6 | Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe. |
| 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.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. |

MONSTER NEEDS YOUR VOTE

Campaign Actions

Monster takes several actions to promote three main issues. Sometimes these actions are the same, and sometimes they are different. Fill in the diagram with the campaign actions listed below.

For which issue did Monster take more campaign actions?
Which platform was most successful?



MONSTER NEEDS YOUR VOTE

Presidential Credentials

A credential is something that makes someone suited for a certain job. US presidents must have the right credentials to run for election. Research these and add them to the “Must” column below. Then brainstorm things you think a US president *should* do. Add those items to the “Should” column.



A US PRESIDENT MUST:

Be at least 35 years old

A US PRESIDENT SHOULD:

Be fair



MONSTER NEEDS YOUR VOTE

Talk to Your President!

Think about an issue that is important to you. What you would tell the US president about this issue? Write it down. Then share your message with the president!

Here's how:



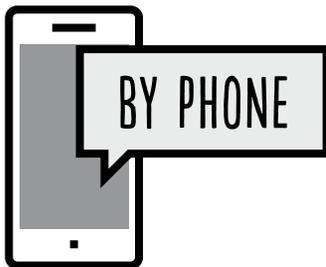
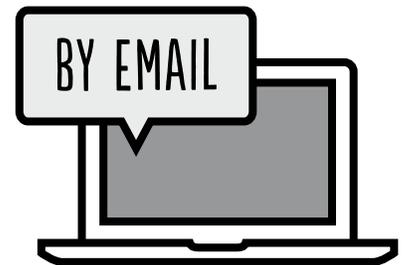
Write out a letter, or type one on a computer. Place the letter in an envelope with a return address.

Mail the letter to:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



Fill out the form at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>



Call the White House comment line at 202-456-1111. Then leave a message for the president!



MONSTER NEEDS YOUR VOTE

Catchphrase Campaign Buttons

A catchphrase is a word or saying used to represent a person, event, or idea.

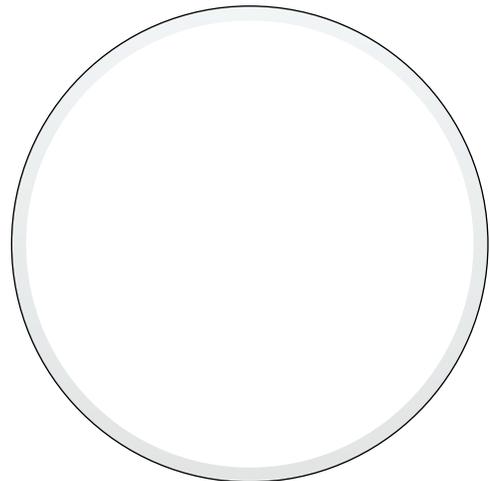
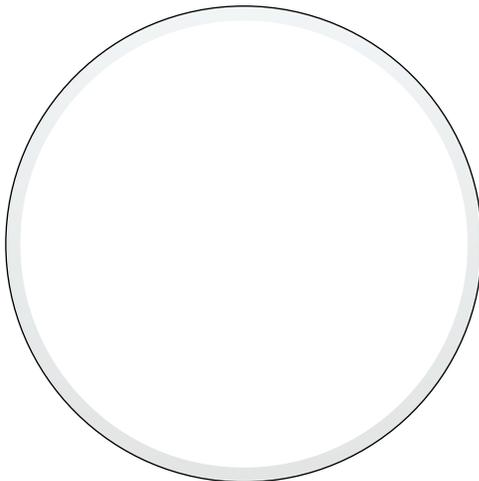
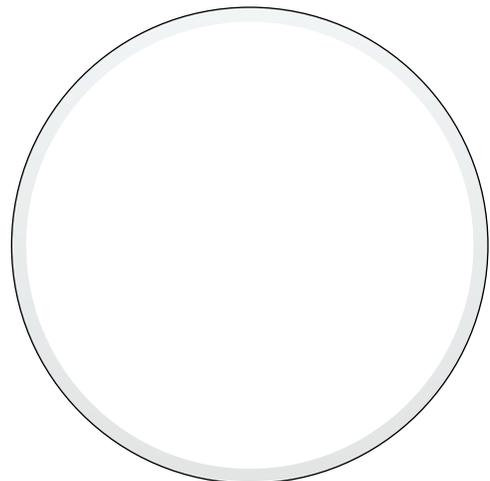
Monster's catchphrase is "Reading Turns Your Voice Into a Roar!"



What issues are important to you? List them in the spaces below. Then design a button with a catchphrase for each issue. Cut out your buttons. Pin them to your shirt, backpack, and more!

ISSUE: Reading and Education

ISSUE: _____



ISSUE: _____

ISSUE: _____

MONSTER NEEDS YOUR VOTE

Monster Read & Roar Book Exchange

Do you remember Monster's campaign slogan? "Reading Turns Your Voice into a Roar!" Reading is an important part of education. And with an education, we can share our ideas and thoughts with the world!

Encourage your community to read just as Monster did. Plan a community book exchange! Fill in the flyer below. Have an adult help you make copies. Then give the flyers to friends, neighbors, teachers, and students in your community.



MONSTER READ & ROAR BOOK EXCHANGE!

WHAT: A FREE BOOK SWAP

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____



Gather books you have read and want to pass along. Bring them to the Monster Read & Roar Book Exchange. Pick out new books to take home from those others bring to the event. Then read, read, read. Turn your voice into a roar!

