

## Monster Readers !

**Goal:** Students will be able to demonstrate that monsters are creatures created in our imagination. They are not living things. Students will listen to a story read aloud or a presentation of reader's theater.

### Motivational Activity Kit will include:

- Read-aloud selections
- Assorted plush and plastic monsters
- Mythical monster artwork/identification picture CD
- Monster costume and hats, toga and wreath hat
- Go Away Big Green Monster storytelling glove
- Reader's Theater Scripts for "Where the Wild Things Are"
- Reader's Theater Script for "Medusa and Athena"
- Barefoot Book of Monsters
- Monsters and Villains of the Movies and Literature Book



### Description of Activity:

1. **Grades PK-2:** In costume, welcome the students and ask them about the ways that monsters are different from people. Teach them the song "Horns, Fangs, Knees and Claws." (p.9)
2. Read the story "Go Away Big Green Monster" by Ed Emberly and use the storytelling glove to illustrate as you read. OR have volunteers perform readers theater of "Where the Wild Things Are."
3. Discuss the difference between real people and make-believe monsters. Ask students for advice about how to make a monster go away if they ever did see one.
4. **Grades 3-6:** Welcome students and ask them to tell you what they know about monsters and mythology. Remind them of the recent popular film "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief" to draw out their knowledge.
5. Tell the students that though many monsters and mythical creatures came from Greek myths, there are myths and mythical creatures from many cultures around the world. Use the "Creature" PowerPoint presentation to introduce the children to mythical creatures from around the world.
6. Ask volunteers (or students) to present the readers theater story Medusa and Athena. OR read from "The Monster's Ring."

**Tech Connection:** Use the CD provided to access the "Mythical Creatures" PowerPoint presentation. Use your innovation station to project the images.

Thanks to Eve Panzer and **Barefoot Books** for the Donation of The Barefoot Book of Monsters!



**Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:** K(21 A&B); 1st (27A&B); 2nd (28A&B); 3rd (110.14 29A); 4th (110.6 b1A,C &b3A); 5th (110.7 b1A &b3A &b8A,B,C)

**Common Core:** ELA-Literacy. RL.K 10, SL.K.1a-K.2, 1.1a-c, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1a-c, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1a-d, 4.3, 4.4, 4.1d, 4.6, RF 4.4a-cSI 4.2, SI 5.3, 5.6, RI5.2, 5.8, 5.10

## Suggested Read-Aloud Books

<b>Grade Level:</b> <b>Pre-K through Second Grade</b>	<b>Suggested Read-Aloud:</b> <i>It didn't Frighten Me!</i> <i>No me asusto a mi!</i> <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> <b>By Maurice Sendak (Readers Theater)</b>
<b>Discussion Points - <u>It Didn't Frighten Me</u></b> <p>As you read, fold back the pages so it appears that every time you turn the page there is a brand new monster that wasn't there before! Pre-K children are especially amazed by this. Ask the students to imagine what color monster and what type of monster might come next.</p>	
<b>Discussion Points—<u>Where the Wild Things Are</u></b> <p><b>Before reading:</b> Do you think that wild things really exist? What is the craziest dream you ever had?</p> <p><b>While reading:</b> Would you be scared of the wild things? What would you do if you were Max?</p> <p><b>After reading:</b> What would you have done to tame the wild things?</p> <p>What do you think Max was thinking when he met the wild things?          What do you think would have happened if Max weren't able to tame the wild things?</p>	
<b>Grade Level:</b> <b>Third through Fifth Grade</b>	<b>Suggested Read-Aloud:</b> <i>The Monster's Ring by Bruce Coville</i> OR <i>Medusa and Athena (Reader's Theater)</i> <i>OR The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan</i>
<b>Discussion Points—<u>The Monster's Ring - Chapter 2</u></b> <p><b>Before reading:</b> Can you think of any reason why you might want to turn into a monster? Mention that Russell was thinking of being a monster for Halloween, but not a REAL monster.          Mention that he was being bothered by a bully and thought about how to get away.</p> <p><b>After reading:</b> Where do you think Russell was when he got the ring? How did he get home?          What do you think will happen if his parents see him?          Would you use the ring if you had the chance?          Can you remember what Russell looked like as a monster? Describe him.</p>	
<b>Discussion Points—<u>Medusa and Athena - Reader's Theater</u></b> <p><b>Before reading:</b> Medusa was not always a monster. Actually, she was a very pretty girl. What does it mean to be beautiful? Can you think of anyone who looks beautiful, but doesn't act beautiful?</p> <p><b>During reading:</b> What do Medusa's friends think of her bragging? Does she ever take a break from admiring herself?</p> <p><b>After reading:</b> Athena, the goddess, talks to Medusa. What does she say? What lesson is she teaching Medusa and all of the visitors to the temple?</p>	
<b>Discussion Points—<u>The Lightning Thief—pages 8-15</u></b> <p><b>Before reading:</b> Tell the students that Percy is a his 6th school in 6 years. He has a history of getting in trouble. This year will be different!</p> <p><b>During reading:</b> Stop (bottom of p.11) to ask the students what might be happening to Percy.</p> <p><b>After reading:</b> Why didn't anyone else notice what was going on? What might this story hold?</p>	

# *Medusa and Athena—Readers Theater Script*

## Characters:

*Narrator*                      *Medusa*  
*Cobbler*                        *Blacksmith's Son*  
*People in the garden*  
*Friend 1*                      *Friend 2*  
*Athena*

## SCRIPT:

**Narrator:** Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful girl named Medusa. She lived in the city of Athens in a country named Greece — and although there were many pretty girls in the city, Medusa was considered the most lovely.

*At Medusa's house.*

**Medusa:** (*looking at herself in the mirror*) I am the prettiest of them all! Everybody knows that, and I am proud of that. My skin is more beautiful than fresh fallen snow.

**Narrator:** Every day of the week, she told everybody something about her beauty. On Monday, she told the cobbler.

*At the cobbler's shop*

**Medusa:** My hair glows brighter than the sun.

**Cobbler:** I know that! It brightens every room and every place you enter. The sun is nothing compared to you.

**Narrator:** On Tuesday, she said it to the blacksmith's son.

*At the blacksmith's shop*

**Medusa:** My eyes are greener than the Aegean Sea.

**Blacksmith's Son:** Yes, you have the most beautiful eyes I have ever seen. The sea is nothing compared to you!

**Narrator:** On Wednesday, she boasted to everyone at the public garden.

*At the public garden*

**Medusa:** My lips are redder than the reddest rose.

**People in the garden:** Oh, Medusa, roses are nothing compared to you!

**Narrator:** When she wasn't busy sharing her thoughts about her beauty with all who passed by, Medusa would gaze lovingly at her reflection in her hand mirror.

*In her room*

**Medusa:** (to hand mirror while brushing her hair) I admire myself, I am so beautiful. Even my reflection in the window and in the water shows my beauty.

**Narrator:** On and on Medusa went about her beauty to anyone and everyone who stopped long enough to hear her — until one day when she made her first visit to the Parthenon with her friends.

*At the Parthenon*

**Friend 1:** The Parthenon is the largest temple to the goddess Athena in all the land.

**Friend 2:** Yes, the decoration looks amazing with those sculptures and paintings.

**Narrator:** Everyone who entered was astonished by the beauty of the place and couldn't help but think of how grateful they were to Athena, goddess of wisdom, for inspiring them and for watching over their city of Athens. Everyone, that is, except Medusa.

**Medusa:** (*whispering*) I could have made a much better subject for the sculptor than Athena.

**Narrator:** When Medusa saw the artwork, she had something to say.

**Medusa:** The artist did a fine job considering the goddess's thick eyebrows.

**Narrator:** But imagine how much more wonderful the painting would be if it was of someone as delicate as Medusa. When Medusa reached the altar she, sighed happily and said.

**Medusa:** My, this is a beautiful temple. It is a shame it was wasted on Athena, I am so much prettier than she is – perhaps some day people will build an even grander temple to my beauty.

**Narrator:** Medusa's friends grew pale. The priestesses who overheard Medusa gasped. Whispers ran through all the people in the temple who quickly began to leave, except for Medusa who was so busy looking proudly at her reflection in the large bronze doors that she hadn't noticed the departure of everyone else. Suddenly, instead of her own features, it was the face of Athena that Medusa saw reflected back at her.

**Athena:** (*to Medusa*) Vain and foolish girl. You think you are prettier than I am! I doubt it to be true, but even if it were — there is more to life than beauty alone. While others work and play and learn, you do little but boast and admire yourself!

**Medusa:** But, Athena, my beauty is an inspiration to those around me. I make their lives better by simply looking so lovely.

**Narrator:** But Athena silenced her with a frustrated wave.

**Athena:** Nonsense. Beauty fades swiftly in all mortals. It does not comfort the sick, teach the unskilled or feed the hungry. And by my powers, your loveliness shall be stripped away completely. Your fate shall serve as a reminder to others to control their pride.

**Narrator:** And with those words, Medusa's face changed to that of a hideous monster. Her hair twisted and thickened into horrible snakes that hissed and fought each other atop her head.

**Athena:** Medusa, for your pride, this has been done. Your face is now so terrible to behold that the mere sight of it will turn a man to stone! Even you, Medusa, should you seek your reflection, shall turn to rock the instant you see your face.. Now, with your hair of snakes, go live with the blind monsters — the gorgon sisters — at the ends of the earth, so that no innocents would be accidentally turned to stone at the sight of you.

**Medusa:** (*shouting*) Nooo, what have you done to me, Athena? I am the most beautiful! You are jealous of me! I will be beautiful forever, and you will not change that!

The End

This script was borrowed, with permission from:

<http://www.kidsinco.com/2008/07/medusa-and-athena/>



medusa www.fotosearch.com

# Where the Wild Things Are - Readers Theater

*by*

**Maurice Sendak**

Characters (6): NARRATOR CHILD 1 CHILD 2  
MAX CHILD 3 CHILD 4

NARRATOR: THAT NIGHT MAX WORE HIS WOLF SUIT

CHILD 1: AND MADE MISCHIEF

CHILD 2: OF ONE KIND

CHILD 3: AND ANOTHER.

NARRATOR: HIS MOTHER CALLED HIM

CHILD 4: "WILD THING!"

NARRATOR: AND MAX SAID:

MAX: "I'LL EAT YOU UP!"

CHILD 1: SO HE WAS SENT TO BED

CHILD 2: WITHOUT EATING ANYTHING.

NARRATOR: THAT VERY NIGHT IN MAX'S ROOM

MAX: A FOREST GREW, AND GREW, AND GREW. UNTIL THE CEILING HUNG WITH VINES.

CHILD 3: AND THE WALLS BECAME THE WORLD ALL AROUND.

CHILD 4: AND AN OCEAN TUMBLED BY.

MAX: WITH A PRIVATE BOAT!

NARRATOR: FOR MAX, AND HE SAILED OFF THROUGH NIGHT AND DAY.

CHILD 1: AND IN AND OUT OF WEEKS

CHILD 2: AND ALMOST OVER A YEAR

MAX: TO WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE!

NARRATOR: AND WHEN HE CAME TO THE PLACE WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE THEY

CHILD 3: ROARED THEIR TERRIBLE ROARS! (ALL ROAR)

CHILD 4: AND GNASHED THEIR TERRIBLE TEETH (ALL GNASH TEETH)

# Where the Wild Things Are - Readers Theater P.2

CHILD 1: AND ROLLED THEIR TERRIBLE EYES! (ALL ROLL EYES)

CHILD 2: AND SHOWED THEIR TERRIBLE CLAWS (ALL SHOW CLAWS)

NARRATOR: TILL MAX SAID:

MAX: BE STILL!

CHILD 3: AND HE TAMED THEM

CHILD 4: WITH THE MAGIC TRICK

MAX: OF STARING INTO ALL THEIR YELLOW EYES

CHILD 1: WITHOUT BLINKING ONCE.

CHILD 2: AND THEY WERE FRIGHTENED AND CALLED HIM

**ALL: THE MOST WILD THING OF ALL!!**

NARRATOR: AND THEY MADE HIM KING OF ALL THE WILD THINGS.

MAX: AND NOW, LET THE WILD RUMPUS START!! (pause....) NOW, STOP!

CHILD 3: AND HE SENT THE WILD THINGS OFF TO BED

CHILD 4: WITHOUT SUPPER....AND MAX

CHILD 1: THE KING OF ALL THE WILD THINGS, SAID:

MAX: I'M LONELY!

NARRATOR: HE WANTED TO BE WHERE SOMEONE LOVED HIM BEST OF ALL.

CHILD 2: THEN, ALL AROUND, FROM FAR ACROSS THE WORLD

NARRATOR: HE SMELLED GOOD THINGS TO EAT! SO HE SAID:

MAX: I'LL GIVE UP BEING KING OF WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE.

CHILD 3: BUT THE WILD THINGS CRIED

CHILD 4: OH, PLEASE DON'T GO!

CHILD 1: WE'LL EAT YOU UP!

CHILD 2: WE LOVE YOU SO!

# Where the Wild Things Are - Readers Theater P.3

NARRATOR: AND MAX SAID:

MAX: NO!

CHILD 1: THE WILD THINGS ROARED THEIR TERRIBLE ROARS! (ALL ROAR)

CHILD 2: AND GNASHED THEIR TERRIBLE TEETH (ALL GNASH TEETH)

CHILD 3: AND ROLLED THEIR TERRIBLE EYES! (ALL ROLL EYES)

CHILD 4: AND SHOWED THEIR TERRIBLE CLAWS (ALL SHOW CLAWS)

NARRATOR: BUT MAX STEPPED INTO HIS PRIVATE BOAT

CHILD 1: AND WAVED GOOD-BYE (MAX WAVES)

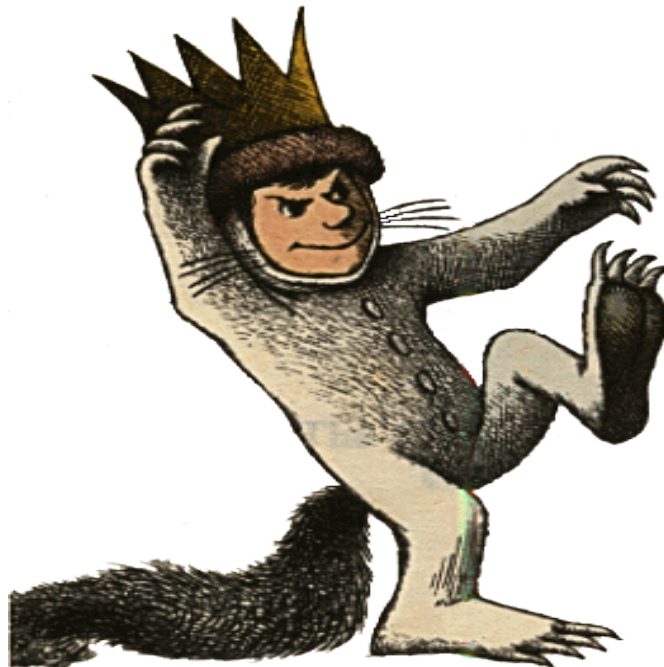
CHILD 2: AND SAILED BACK

CHILD 3: ALMOST OVER A YEAR AND IN AND OUT OF WEEKS AND THROUGH A DAY

MAX: AND INTO THE NIGHT OF MY VERY OWN ROOM

CHILD 4: WHERE HE FOUND HIS SUPPER WAITING FOR HIM

MAX: AND IT WAS STILL HOT.





## Horns, Fangs, Knees and Claws

Sung to: "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes"

Horns and fangs,  
knees and claws,  
knees and claws.  
Horns and fangs,  
knees and claws.  
Eyes and ears and tail and paws.

## If You're a Monster !

Sung to: " If you're happy and you know it"

If you're a monster and you know it wave your arms  
If you're a monster and you know it wave your arms.  
If you're a monster and you know then your arms will surely show it.  
If you're a monster and you know it wave your arms.

Continue with:

...show your claws  
...gnash your teeth  
...stomp your feet  
...growl out loud

