

Monsties: The Lost Bunny

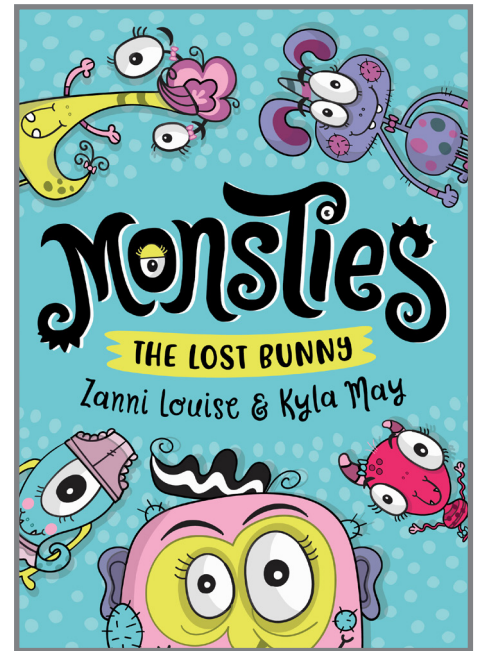
AUTHOR
ZANNI LOUISE

ILLUSTRATOR
KYLA MAY

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Meet Orla, Pearl, Mig, Boo and Oops—they are THE MONSTIES!

The Monsties are five best friend monsters . . . who are a bit hopeless at being scary. They live in Scaryland, surrounded by scary monsters and scary places (the ScaryMart, the Howlpital, the Shriek Factory) but they much prefer candy and cupcakes to spiders and centipedes.

In *Lost Bunny*, Mig has lost her pet bunny. This is a BIG problem, because Mig can't sleep without Bunny. And when Mig doesn't sleep, she falls apart (literally). Can the Monsties work together to find Bunny?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zanni Louise has been writing stories since she was little, growing up in country NSW. She now lives with her family of four in the Byron Bay hinterland. Author of over thirty kids' books, Zanni writes picture books, chapter books and books for 10–12-year-olds, and her books are sold in 20 foreign territories. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables, and her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for the highly prestigious international children's catalogue: The White Ravens.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kyla May is an Australian illustrator, writer and designer. She is the creator and illustrator of over 50 books. Some of the book series she's worked on include Juliet, Nearly a Vet, Diary of a Pug and Paris Takes Over The World. In addition to books, Kyla has created several animated TV series for children and also designed toys. Kyla lives by the beach in Victoria, with her three daughters, two dogs and two cats.

THEMES

- Friendship
- Kindness
- Problem-solving
- Fear

STUDY NOTES

- Think about the scene where the Monsties all fall into a big hole.

- What is the problem?
- How do they feel about it?
- How do they work together to overcome it?

Find another example on your own and discuss the way the Monsties work together to solve a problem.

- Mig *tells* Pearl that she's a 'good friend' (p 100). What has she *done* to *show* that she's a good friend, too?
- People (and monsters!) can show friendship in many different ways—they might say nice things, or offer practical assistance, or give up something they want to make a friend happy. All of these types of friendship are demonstrated at various points in the book. Make a list of qualities that you think are important in a friendship. Share a time that you showed care to one of your friends.
- Finish this sentence: Friendship is . . .
- In *Monsties: The Lost Bunny*, the Monsties have to work together to solve the problem of Mig's lost bunny. This problem interrupts everyday life and sends the Monsties off on their adventure into Big Scary Forest. Discuss how solving problems and overcoming obstacles make stories more interesting for the reader. Ask students to share their thoughts on why this is.
- The 'Story Spine' is an 8-step storytelling template, developed by Pixar, that writers can use to understand and build stories. Visit the following website for more information <https://medium.com/@Brian_G_Peters/6-rules-of-great-storytelling-as-told-by-pixar-fcc6ae225f50> Fill in the story spine using details from *The Lost Bunny*.

Once upon a time there was _____.

Every day, _____.

One day _____.

Because of that, _____.

Because of that, _____.

Until finally _____.

Use the Story Spine template above to create your own story idea. You can use the characters from *Monsties* or come up with entirely new characters of your own. Give your story a title and share your idea with the rest of the class.

- Another thing that makes a story interesting is obstacles. Obstacles happen when one of the characters wants something and something else is stopping them from getting it. What do each of the characters want in the book? What are some of the obstacles standing in their way?
- The Monsties are all very different from each other, and even though their differences mean that they don't quite fit in with the other creatures in Scaryland, they also make them unique. Pearl's long neck allows her to reach places the other Monsties can't, while Mig's long nose gives her a very good sense of smell. What are some of the other differences you can see between the Monsties? How do you think they might come in handy?
 - Draw a picture of yourself, trying to capture one of the features that makes you different from your friends.
- Where do the Monsties live? Draw a picture of what you think the 'darkest corner of Scaryland' looks like.
- The Monsties go on a big adventure to find Bunny, but Bunny has a pretty big adventure too—imagine being used as a mop all morning! Write a scene from the book from Bunny's perspective.
- The Monsties gather their Essential Bunny Finding Equipment to go and look for Bunny. What is in the kit? Make your own Essential Bunny Finding kit, filling it with at least three things that might come in handy for finding Bunny.
- Draw a map of all of the places the Monsties look for Bunny in Scaryland. Where do they eventually find Bunny? How would you mark this on the map?
- Write a short review of the book, using these prompts to get you started.
 - This is a book about _____ (character name/s)
 - In the story, they _____ (the problem they have to solve)
 - I enjoyed _____ (something you enjoyed about the book)
 - People who liked _____ (a similar book) would like this book.

COMPREHENSION

- What are each of the Monsties famous for? What are you famous for?
- What do all of the Monsties have in common?

- Why don't the Monsties quite fit into Scaryland? Have you ever felt as if you don't fit in somewhere?
- Do the Monsties look scary? Make a list of the things that make them look scary and a list of the things that don't make them look scary.
- What day of the week does the story begin on? What weekly adventure happens on this day?
- Write out all of the items on the shopping list (p 15)—who do each of the items belong to?
- Why is Mig upset?
- What is the 'Bunny Detector' made of? Do you think it will work? Why/why not?
- Is there anything truly scary about Big Scary Forest? What are each of the Monsties afraid of?
- How does Pearl get the Monsties out of the hole they fall into?
- What makes Mig feel braver? Is there a particular smell that you find comforting in scary situations?
- Why is Orla just a teensy bit mad?
- Where do the Monsties eventually find Bunny? How do you think Bunny enjoyed their adventure?

AUTHOR OF NOTES
BEC KAVANAGH