

The Werewolf's Tale (Monster Support Group)

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Since the beginning of time, monsters have existed to frighten humans. We have known them in cinema or television, literature, urban legends and mythology, many are so ancient that we do not even know their true origin. But what if the stories about these so-called monsters only paint one side of them? What if these creatures are actually not as monstrous as they first appear?

When twelve-year-old Lowell moves to a new village, he struggles to fit in at school—he is a bit different, and the bullies don't seem to like different. Then the changes start. At first, Lowell thinks these are just the ordinary, growing-up kind of changes: he gets hairier, his voice gets growlier and his moods are all over the place. But then one full-moon night, after a VERY bad day at school, he transforms into a werewolf in front of his twin sister, Lys!

Join Lowell as he joins the Monster Support Group in an attempt to return to 'normal'.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Laura Suárez is a freelance illustrator from Galicia. Since a young age, she has always been fascinated by books. She studied Fine Arts at the Polytechnic University of Valencia and completed a Comic and Illustration Masters in Barcelona. Working as an illustrator or an author, she has worked with clients such as Penguin Random House, Xerais or Group Edelvives, among others.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

WHILE READING

Orientation

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Answer the following questions after reading the opening scene of the novel:
 - Which character/s are we introduced to?
 - What mood is the author setting?
- Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

Complications

- It is the author's job to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

Characterisation

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words.
 - Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?

Setting and World-building

- Consider the world the author has created in this novel and then answer the following questions:
 - Can you describe it?
 - How is it different to the world you live in?
 - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?

Resolution

- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
- Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter. Were you surprised by where the story went?

AFTER READING

- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have.
 - Once you have chosen your soundtrack, think about your ideal cast and setting. Then create a movie poster advertising the adaptation.