

# Zorro's Tasty Treat (School of Monsters)

AUTHOR

**SALLY RIPPIN**

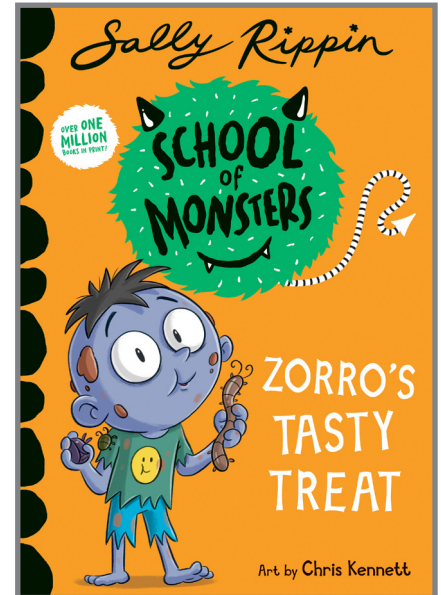
ILLUSTRATOR

**CHRIS KENNETT**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

In this hilarious story, Zorro learns how to listen to his tummy!

*Zorro loves food, but his snacks make a stink.  
What else could he eat? Let's have a think!*

Zorro is a zombie who loves to snack in class, which makes for a smelly school! Can his teacher find a brainy solution?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sally Rippin is one of Australia's best-selling and most-loved children's authors. She has written over 50 books for children and young adults, and her mantle holds numerous awards for her writing. Best known for her Billie B Brown, Hey Jack! and Polly and Buster series, Sally loves to write stories with heart, as well as characters that resonate with children, parents and teachers alike.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Chris Kennett has been drawing ever since he could hold a pencil (or so his mum says). But professionally, Chris has been creating quirky characters for just over 20 years. He's best known for drawing weird and wonderful creatures from the Star Wars universe, but he also loves drawing cute and cuddly monsters—and he hopes you do too!

## THEMES

- Problem solving
- Friends
- Bodies
- Cooking

## STUDY NOTES

### THEMES

#### Problem Solving

- There's quite a lot of problems that Zorro has to overcome in this story, and the smell is only one of them! Invite students to brainstorm a list of some of the problems that Zorro has to overcome and discuss the solution he finds in the book.

- What other solutions can they think of? Discuss why problems are an important part of creating an interesting story.

### Cooking

- We might not all eat bugs, but we all eat! One of the things that Zorro learns in the book is the way that cooking changes his food (and his farts!). Ask students to share their favourite foods. Is there something they're able to make on their own? Bring a simple recipe in to share and explore the main parts of it with students (ingredients, steps and presentation).

### WRITING STYLE

- The School of Monsters series are designed to help children learn to read, and use simple rhymes and decodable words to help to build confidence. Each book has a handy vocabulary list that's colour-coded using a traffic light system, so that readers can gradually build their vocabulary. Ask students to make a list of three new words they learn from the book, and to write a definition for each of them. Use each of these words in your own sentences and practise them in your conversations this week. In *Zorro's Tasty Treat*, the rhyming words are written in orange. In the book, find the words that rhyme with the following:
  - Found
  - Bugs
  - Stink.

Can you think of any other words that rhyme with these?

- Interesting stories have interesting problems with interesting solutions. What's another problem that Zorro might face at school? Use some of the problems you have to overcome at school as inspiration. In groups, brainstorm some interesting solutions to Zorro's problem, and then, individually, start to write your new Zorro story.

### Comprehension

- What do you notice about the words written in orange?
- What kind of creature is Zorro? Where does he live?
- How do the other monsters react to the things Zorro brings to school?
- What does Zorro snack on? What happens when he snacks?
- What forces the whole class to go out to the yard?
- Describe some of the challenges of learning outside.
- What is Cook's solution to Zorro's snacking issue?

### ILLUSTRATION STYLE

- At the back of the book, there are instructions on how to draw Zorro. What shapes and lines has the illustrator, Chris Kennett, used to create him? Compare these to some of the other monsters in the book—what makes them different?
- Invite readers to describe Zorro's facial expression. What would they change to make Zorro look angry, sad or hungry?
- Zorro comes into class with some of the things he's found. Draw a picture of some of the things on this list. What kind of things would you bring to school?
- Come up with a new bug recipe for Zorro to try and draw a picture of it. Be sure to include the ingredients and the method.
- See if you can find a simple picture of the pathway that food takes through your body. What happens after you put it in your mouth? Why do you think live bugs gives Zorro an upset tummy? Draw a picture of the journey that food takes once you start eating it.
- What's in your ideal lunch box to make sure you've got enough energy to play (and learn!) at school? Discuss the different types of food we eat and why it's important to have a balance of things. Draw a picture of your favourite lunch.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

**BEC KAVANAGH**