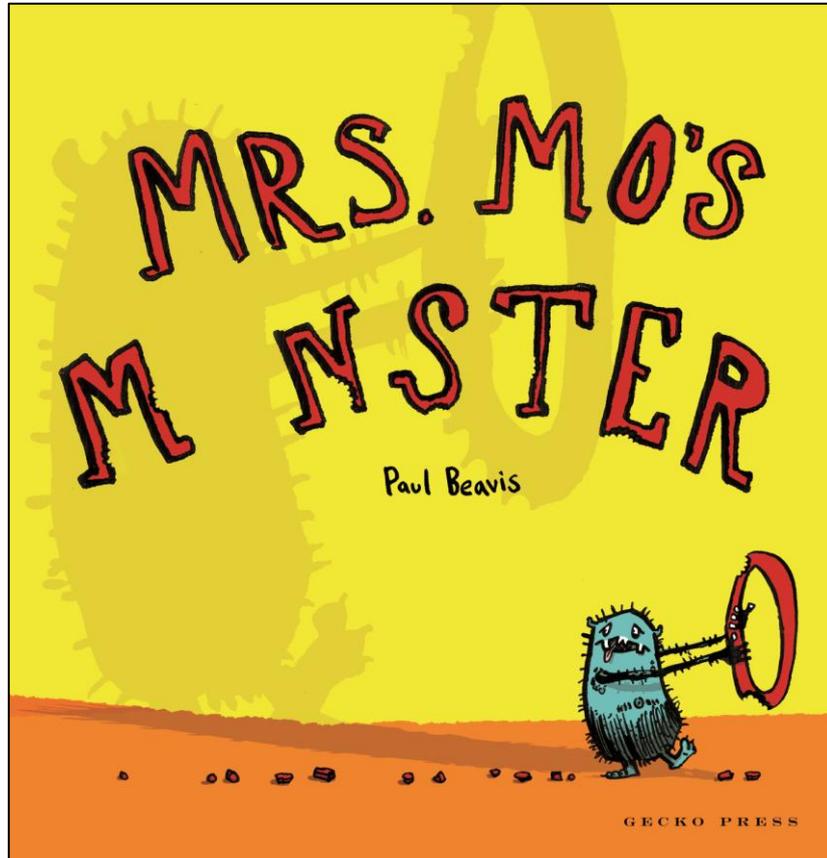




GECKO PRESS

Teaching Notes
Mrs. Mo's Monster
by Paul Beavis



Synopsis

One day there is a knock at the front door. Mr. Mo is gardening, so Mrs. Mo goes to see who it might be. A monster with a one-track mind is at the door. On entering the house he meets his match in the elderly Mrs. Mo. With her help, the monster is surprised to discover he can do more than he ever thought possible – but that's not the only surprise Mrs. Mo has in store!

The Author/Illustrator

Paul Beavis was born in London in 1971. He studied graphic design at Central St Martin's in London, then worked on children's animation shows for the BBC and Channel 4. He currently works as a website designer for a range of clients, covering TV and film production, luxury goods, and children's books (including those by the authors Lauren Child and Giles Andreae). Paul lives in Wellington, New Zealand and this is his first picture book. You can visit his professional website at www.mrbeavis.com and his picture book website at www.mrsmosmonster.com



Themes

This energetic, endearing and hilarious picture book has several themes.

One of the themes is the advantages of being open to and accepting of new and unexpected situations. Mrs. Mo takes the arrival of the rambunctious monster on her doorstep in her stride. She welcomes the visitor in and then goes about helping the monster, and through a little cunning getting the help she also needs.

Another theme explores the importance of being patient and understanding as well as having a kind heart. With all these attributes Mrs. Mo helps the stubborn monster to step outside his monster comfort zone to try and learn some new skills.

A further theme illustrated is the ability to discover, embrace and celebrate your talents, and the importance and empowerment of sharing what you can do with others. This is evident when Mrs. Mo, by demonstrating her own skills and talents, enables the monster to discover some of its own.

The theme of trying new things is also demonstrated. The monster is reluctant to try new things but finally sees Mrs. Mo making a cake and feeling it could succeed in this new skill is willing to try

The theme of sharing good times and important events with new friends and old family is seen as Mrs. Mo entrusts the monster to help prepare for Mr. Mo's surprise birthday, which builds a new and unlikely friendship.

A final theme in the book is the importance of being polite and learning to use good manners.

Activities

1. Before reading the book, look at the cover image and title. Discuss what you think this story might be about.
2. Onomatopoeia is a figure of speech for a word which imitates a noise or action. What are some examples of onomatopoeia from the book? Think of some more examples that could have been used to describe some of the other actions in the book.
3. The book's title *Mrs. Mo's Monster* is an example of alliteration. What is the definition of alliteration? Think of ten more examples of this figure of speech each starting with a different letter of the alphabet.
4. Throughout the book the author has used different font sizes and font types for different words. Why has he done this? What do they help tell the reader about the speech or action? Have they been used effectively? Find some examples from the book.



5. Exclamation marks, question marks, speech marks, ellipses, full stops and commas are all types of punctuation found in the book. Find and list an example of each from the book as well as their grammatical purpose.
6. Write a physical description of Mrs. Mo's monster as well as a list of the monster's character traits. Then imagine a monster comes to your house. Write a physical description and a list of the character traits of your monster. In pairs, read your descriptions to one another and draw each other's monsters.
7. Choose your favourite character from the book. Write a personal description about what is happening around them. Think about how they would describe the physical scene and the other characters, as well as their feelings about what is happening around them.
8. In pairs, make puppets of Mr. and Mrs. Mo and the monster. Act out the book for your class using your puppets. If you have access to video equipment, record your performance.
9. Examine the illustrations in the book. Do you like the style? What colours are used? What kinds of lines and textures are used? Choose your favourite illustration from the book and create your own artistic interpretation of it, for example, a painting, drawing, photograph, model, poem, etc. Or, design your own illustrations for the cover and/or one page of text. Find another book illustrated by Paul Beavis. Compare and contrast the illustrations. Are there many similarities or differences?
10. In pairs, spend a minute looking at the pile of Mr. and Mrs. Mo's belongings that are found in their attic. Then close the book and recall and list as many belongings as you can. Next, pick the first object you listed as inspiration to write a poem or descriptive paragraph relating the story behind why and how the object came to be in Mr. and Mrs. Mo's attic.
11. Did you like the ending of the book? Was it a surprise, funny, etc? What does the monster learn in the end? Imagine the story continues. What would happen next with the arrival of the children? How would Mrs Mo. and the monster teach the children good manners? Write your addition to the story and design illustrations to accompany your text.
12. In pairs, take turns to read the story aloud to one another. Discuss which is your favourite page and why? Do you agree with your partner's choice? Why/why not?



G E C K O P R E S S

13. Without speaking, act out a character doing something from the book. See how quickly the class can guess who you are and what you are doing.
14. Review the book. What do you like about it? Why? What did you dislike about it? Why? Give it a rating, such as stars or a number out of ten.
15. Write a short biography about the author Paul Beavis. Visit his website (www.mrbeavis.com) for inspiration and information.

For further information, and to download wallpapers, visit
www.mrsmosmonster.com

There is also a Facebook page with photos showing the process of the creation of this book, including how the cover was designed and how the characters were developed. This will be updated regularly.

www.facebook.com/mrsmosmonster