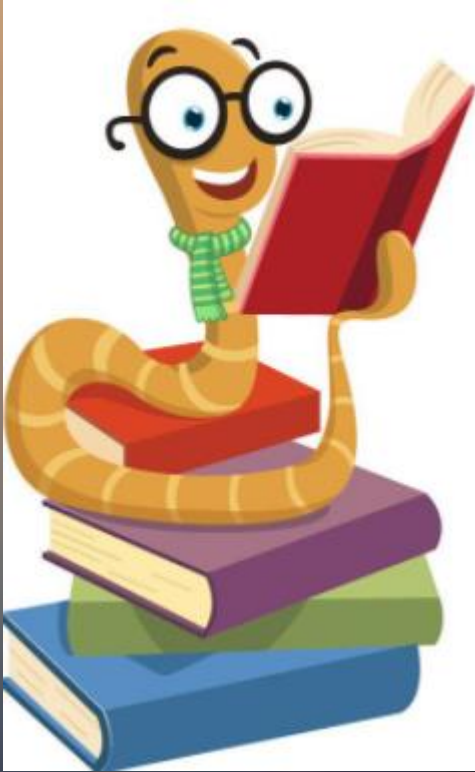


# Big Read

## Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July



# The Monster Within

## Starter Activity:

Think about your monster.

- Is it beautiful or ugly?
- Is it kind or nasty
- Does it have friends? Or no friends?



- Can you think of a time you were like a monster?
- How did you feel?
- What do you think the text will be about?



# The Within!

1

When I was young my dad sat me on his knee, like he always did, and asked me a question:

'Do you know what the worst thing you can lose is?'

I shook my head.

'My pocket money?'

2

'No.'

'Our dog Spot?'

6

7

3

'No. The worst thing you can lose is your temper. A bad temper is a terrible thing. It's a kind of monster who scares people away and nobody loves. It has sharp claws and sharper teeth and scratches and snarls at anyone who comes near. It lives all alone in a cold, dark place with nobody to talk to and nobody to laugh with. It can make something sweet taste like bitter lemons and can turn a beautiful drawing into an ugly scribble.'

8

'We all have a monster inside us but you have to keep it locked away. If you don't, it'll make lots of trouble for you. The key you can use to keep it locked away is to count to ten.'

'Take a deep breath and count:

4

1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... hold it ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9 ... 10.'

9

'Now breathe out, and if that doesn't work, count again. That way your monster will never be free to scare away your happiness.'

I remember uncrossing my arms to give him a big hug and putting my head on his shoulder.

5

It was a long time before my monster got out of its cage again.

10





1. What is a monster within?
2. Does dad speak slowly or quickly, strongly or softly, with love or with anger?
3. What does this tell us about dad?
4. Where is the cold dark place that the monster lives?
5. Do you think the monster is lonely? Why?
6. What feeling is the monster inside us? Is it happiness, sadness or anger?
7. How do you think the child felt before dad's chat?
8. How do you think the child felt after dad's chat?
9. Find a word in dad's question that is the opposite of 'best'
10. Find a word that describes how lemons taste.

## 2 Mark Questions

- Dad thinks we show people we are angry by what we do with our sharp claws and what we say with our sharp teeth. Do you agree with him. Give two reasons.
- What do you do to control your monster within? Give two different points.

