



## ***A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How does the monster describe itself to Conor? Where does it come from & what does it want? Do you think the monster is real or is it a product of Conor's imagination? What does Conor think?
2. Lily was once Conor's closest friend, but now he can't forgive her. Why? Is he right to feel betrayed? How do people behave around Conor once they learn about his mother's illness? What would you have done in Lily's situation?
3. Discuss the role that humor plays in this novel. Where are the best comic moments? Describe the monster's sense of humor. Would you enjoy the monster's company?
4. "Sometimes people need to lie to themselves most of all" the monster tells Conor (pg 62). Is Conor lying to himself about his mother's illness? Is his mother lying to herself? What does each of them need to believe? Why?

5. Look closely at the illustrations. How do they capture the tone of the novel? How do they express the range of Conor's emotions?
6. Who is the hero of the monster's first tale? Who is the villain? How does the story keep surprising Conor? What does Conor hope to learn from the story? What does he actually learn?
7. In the monster's second tale, whose home is destroyed? Why? What does the story inspire Conor to do? Why does he enjoy doing it? How does Conor's grandmother respond to his actions? Why?
8. Harry, the school bully, looks straight into Conor's eyes and says, "I no longer see you" (pg 145). Why is this such a cruel thing to say? How does Conor make himself impossible to miss?
9. Describe Conor's recurring nightmare. How does it usually end? What changes when the monster demands the truth? What is more painful to Conor than the death of his mother? Why does he need to be honest?
10. At the end of the novel, what does Conor say to his mother? Why must he say it? Why must she hear it?

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