



Jeremy Draws a Monster

Peter McCarty

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Alone in his room, Jeremy draws a monster. But then the monster wants lunch! As his creation takes over, Jeremy begins to wonder how he will ever get rid of the monstrous nuisance. He entertains his unwanted guest all day, but enough is enough. Jeremy finally draws him a bus ticket out of town!

With a sure artistic touch and more than a dose of humor, Peter McCarty cleverly blurs the line between his own drawings and Jeremy's, and in doing so subtly questions the line between reality and imagination.

Jeremy Draws a Monster Details

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From Reader Review Jeremy Draws a Monster for online ebook

Nadine Poper says

A brief but powerful story! Jeremy is lonely, he doesn't go outside (though we don't know why) so he draws a monster in search of having a playmate and friend. The monster doesn't work out as hoped and Jeremy has to send him away. Getting the monster to the bus stop means having to go outside, which Jeremy does, and with that accomplishment, he is asked by the kids on the street to play ball. And he does! Inner struggle overcome by what needs to be done. Just simply brilliant!

Alyson says

Harold and the Purple Crayon meets If You Give a Mouse a Cookie Harold and the Purple Crayon. Clever and subtle.

Erin says

I can't believe I've never actually reviewed this (okay, I can, because I know myself and my incredibly inconsistent reviewing habits).

Anyhow, this is one of my all-time favorite storytime books. It combines simplicity and cleverness well enough to work with a variety of ages, has subtle yet dynamic pictures, and says a lot without being overtly didactic.

Sadly, I didn't think the sequel, The Monster Returns, was quite as good.

Kathryn says

This story started off great--a little boy who doesn't really leave his apartment wants some company and he draws a monster; well, it comes to life and starts making demands! As another reviewer so astutely noted, it's like "Harold and the Purple Crayon" meets "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"

But, ultimately, I just wanted more from the ending. What conclusion do we make about imagination? Was the monster in some way representative of the boy's behavior which he has now changed? I wasn't quite satisfied, but this is still worth reading if you are up for some interesting and creative artwork.

Emma says

Jeremy never leaves the house and never plays with the other kids in the neighborhood. One day, he draws a monster who ends up being very demanding and Jeremy finds himself drawing up everything the monster

wants!

Reminiscent of Harold and the Purple Crayon and I enjoyed the illustrations which I found to be very "pretty." (strange that I felt I had to put that in "quotes" so it wouldn't be misconstrued as an insult?)

While I gave it only two stars but I can't really pinpoint what I didn't like about the story. Perhaps I feel there is an underlying message of imagination being "bad" because it might go out of one's own control. While I get that it is healthier for Jeremy to go outside and play with his friends than to stay inside alone with his own thoughts all day, I don't agree that imagination is a bad thing.

Perhaps I am reading just a bit too much into it!

Diana Thomsen says

I was right there on this book until the end. I liked the creation of the monster. I was fine with the adventures. But then...the end? I...still have no idea why the author wrote it this way. Was there a purpose? A moral? Something I missed? Maybe, but it left me feeling unresolved, so the author clearly didn't achieve (at least with me) whatever goal he had aimed to reach.

Anne says

Like other readers, I'm not quite sure what to make of this book. For one thing, the ending is really tacked on. Another thing is that I'm left ruminating about what the message is supposed to be, and all I want is to find a cute book about monsters for storytime!

Kathleen says

Sort of Like Harold of crayon fame, and Max of Where the Wild things are- sometimes creations just get away from us. Same idea as Jeremy does indeed draw a monster who didn't turn out quite like he expected. The story fell a little flat, as the monster ends up inadvertently helping Jeremy out, but it was a bit forced.

Bonnie Lambourn says

Initially I felt like one of the other reviewers here, that the ending was not fully realized. But then I felt, what was really missing? Do kids really need to know why a boy would draw a monster and it take over, until this boy ended up outside? I think it is adults who think this way.

What this book does brilliantly is show a boy creating transference to deal with his problem. Initially we do not know why the boy is inside alone. But quickly we see he may be keeping himself there. He has taken the inner shadow of anxiety about going outside and playing with children, being accepted perhaps, and made it come alive in a drawing. His annoyance at how the monster is controlling his life then becomes apparent. Facing the monster's increasing demands, Jeremy comes in touch with his power to create things, and

eventually this empowers him to problem-solve by creating change. He vanquishes the monster. But it is not enough to simply send it away. We have already seen it returns. He needs to escort it onto a bus himself... which allows him the transition of being in the right place to accept an offer of inclusion.

I would totally recommend this story to any child dealing with anxiety, or the shy child who does not like to talk about his/her fears or problems... or even if they do talk about them, but still holding back. If not inspired by this book to draw, simply by leaving materials for them, one can so easily ask a child, "Would you like to draw?" and see what happens.

Scope says

Although many (many) celebrities might beg to differ, writing children's books is hard work. Limited vocabulary and limited space add to the difficulty of creating a story that (and this is the biggest challenge of all) will resonate with youngsters who are just learning how to read. There are scores of contrived, dull picture books that stand as a testament to the challenges of the medium. But occasionally, a picture book comes along that is so wonderfully pure that it makes you understand why some believe authoring a kids book is cake. Peter McCarty's (Hondo & Fabian) *Jeremy Draws a Monster* is this sort of book. A simple, beautiful book that will join the well-populated ranks of Books about Imagination with gusto.

Too shy to go outside and make friends, Jeremy decides to create some company in the safety of his bedroom. Using a blue pen, he sketches a giant, horned monster. It isn't long before the rude beast begins to get demanding. Food, music, board games – Jeremy has trouble keeping up with the requests. When the monster comes home late and commandeers Jeremy's bed, the boy decides that it is time for his guest to hit the road. He hands the monster a ticket and a suitcase and shows him to the bus stop. After the bus speeds off Jeremy is by himself in a place he never has had the courage to go – outside. When a group of neighbors ask him to play, Jeremy decides to take them up on the offer.

Although it includes a monster, noise and bluster don't dominate the book. The plot has a wonderful pacing that slowly builds, with a conclusion that young readers might expect, yet not see coming. While it won't slay readers with action or huge laughs (as we librarians are so often drawn to during story time), this one should work well in a read-aloud setting. I can see kids putting themselves in Jeremy's tiny, tiny shoes (well, socks actually) pretty easily.

Against the pure white backdrops that help to express Jeremy's self-imposed isolation, McCarty's pen & ink and watercolor illustrations vibrantly assert themselves.

I'm guessing this will be one of those books that critics, parents and kids will all like – it's a big-tenter to be sure. Here's hoping plenty of people crowd in.

Kim Stence says

I loved this book! The art is fantastic. I could spend so much time with each page looking at each squiggle or swirl. So very very creative!!~

Zoe Supina says

This book starts by introducing a little boy named Jeremy. It is implied that Jeremy is very shy. He does not want to go out and play with the other kids, even though he can see them from his window. Jeremy just wants to stay inside and draw. On day, he decides to draw a monster. The monster is very bossy, and orders him to draw many new thing for him. Jeremy gets so fed up that he draws the monster a suitcase and bus pass and escorts him outside. It is then that the neighborhood kids see him, and invite him to come play. Jeremy agrees.

This was a sweet story about the struggles of being introverted, and what imagination can do for a child like this. The story contains many similarities to Harold and the Purple Crayon. They both have the central theme of how a child can create his own imaginative world through art and creativity. I'm not sure if I would read this book aloud to students or include it in a classroom library. It's very simple and the idea has been done many times before. If I were to recommend this book, it would be for pre-k to kindergarteners.

Michelle says

Little boy draws a monster who's quite a demanding creature. He problem solves with his pen, and eventually makes new friends. Funny and a bit odd.

Miriam says

Jeremy draws a monster that comes to life. Rather than being scary, the monster is annoying, constantly making demands and behaving inconsiderately. Fed up, the boy draws it a suitcase and bus ticket and sends it out of town.

If my paper copy didn't say 2009 I would think that was an error, because I'm positive I read the same story (with different illustrations) a few years ago.

Entertaining, but there are better drawings-coming-to-life picture books out there.

Sharie says

something missing to make this a cohesive story
