

## TEACHING NOTES: THE GARDEN MONSTER

Written by Paul Deslandes

Illustrated by Lia Visirin

Published by Little Steps Publishing



### SYNOPSIS

We went into our garden, to see if we could see,  
A monster that I'd heard about,  
MUCH BIGGER than me.  
But where do we start in finding this beast?  
Maybe he's sleeping or enjoying a feast.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul lives in Kent, by the sea, and loves spending time with his family. He has always had a passion for poetry and often makes up bedtime stories for his children. He finally decided to put pen to paper and create a story that his children could relate to. The idea for *The Garden Monster* came from spending endless hours watching his two boys exploring in the garden, talking to creatures and catching bugs. Pauls likes to stay active and loves spending time at the gym. He's excited to be publishing his debut book with Little Steps and hopes to create lots more in the future.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lia was born in a small town in Transylvania, Romania, surrounded by mountains and castles. She spent most of her childhood outside in the garden playing with farm animals and pets and drawing on everything she could. Using both traditional and digital mediums, her favourite things to draw are characters with quirky personalities, plants, birds, old objects, cats and foxes. Inspired by nature, old photographs and childhood memories, Lia tends to use an earthy colour palette. She has studied art since high school and after graduating in art and design at the University of Cluj-Napoca, she started working with local printing houses on children's books and magazine publications.



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### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

*The Garden Monster* is a delightful adventure story about two brothers trying to look for a monster in their garden and meeting a whole host of garden creatures along the way. The book explores the themes of sibling fun, teamwork, curiosity and determination. The charming, playful rhyming verse encourages language and memory development.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. Ask the children if they have adventures in their garden. With their siblings or their friends? Have they ever been on a hunt for something? A treasure hunt, maybe?
3. What animals and creatures do the two boys meet along the way? Have the children seen all those creatures in their garden or backyard?
4. Do the boys ever meet the monster? Who is the monster? Is the monster real?
5. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?



For more teaching notes, visit  
[www.thegardenmonster.com](http://www.thegardenmonster.com)

FUN  
ACTIVITY!

## DESIGN A MONSTER

Design your own monster! Will it have three eyes, a dozen arms or a very long neck? You decide!



A large empty rectangular box for drawing a monster.

MY MONSTER'S NAME IS: \_\_\_\_\_



## WRITE A MONSTER POEM

Write an acrostic poem using the word, THE MONSTER. An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word.

You could write about a monster hunt or perhaps describe your favourite monster!



T  
H  
E  
M  
O  
N  
S  
T  
E  
R



# THE GARDEN MONSTER WORDSEARCH

Find all the words in *The Garden Monster* wordsearch!

## THE GARDEN MONSTER

T I Y E R F H G N  
L A L O N I C E M  
I E F O E E M A P  
A B R E T O G R T  
N I E R N P E E L  
S S T S I Y E D O  
E R T E P U M I I  
C E U L S T Q P M  
R R B O P A R S G

BEE  
BUTTERFLY  
CAT

MAGPIE  
MONSTER  
SNAIL

SPIDER  
SQUIRREL



# THE GARDEN MONSTER

T	I	Y	E	R	F	H	G	N
L	A	L	O	N	I	C	E	M
I	E	F	O	E	E	M	A	P
A	B	R	E	T	O	G	R	T
N	I	E	R	N	P	E	E	L
S	S	T	S	I	Y	E	D	O
E	R	T	E	P	U	M	I	I
C	E	U	L	S	T	Q	P	M
R	R	B	O	P	A	R	S	G

BEE  
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