

Billy Brown and the Belly Button Beastie

Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Courage, Resourcefulness, Humor

Book Brief: An adaptation of a Japanese folktale, a young boy discovers the legendary Belly Button Beastie is real after ignoring his mother's warnings about kicking off his blankets at night. How does he conquer his fear about the beastie?

Author:
Bobby & Sherry
Norfolk

Illustrator:
Baird Hoffmire

Before Reading

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you been scared after hearing a story, whether it is true or not?" (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how the young boy imagined the worst but then found a way to conquer his fear."

During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why did Billy Brown get so fearful after the story about the Belly Button Beastie?
- How did Billy's friends help him brainstorm some possible solutions to his problem?
- What "trick" did Billy play on the Belly Button Beastie?
- What is scary about the Belly Button Beastie?
- What is funny about the Belly Button Beastie?
- How did Billy feel at the end of the story?



Think Aloud:

"I notice that Billy Brown's mother gave him the warnings about kicking off his blankets at night."

I'm wondering... "Why was she was so concerned about that?"

After Reading

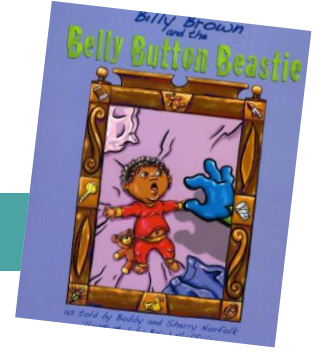
Our Purpose: "How did Billy get over being scared?"

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

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Extension Activities



Fears & Solutions

Directions:

Using a large piece of paper, have the students brainstorm some common childhood fears, along with some ideas for conquering those fears.

Compare & Contrast

Material:

- Book, [The Ghost Catcher](#)

Directions:

1. Teacher reads *The Ghost Catcher* by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss. This folktale from Bengal features a clever barber who outwits a ghost wanting to eat him.
2. Students compare and contrast the barber with Billy Brown.
3. Students compare and contrast the way each character solved his problem.
4. Teacher points out common themes including courage and resourcefulness.

Story Rewrite

Materials:

- Lined paper
- Pencils

Directions:

1. Teacher asks students to create a new solution to Billy's problem and write a different ending to the story.
2. Students read their alternative endings to the class.
3. This can be done individually, in a pair, or in a small group.