

go away big green monster by ed emberley

Go Away Big Green Monster is a beloved children's book written and illustrated by Ed Emberley. First published in 1992, this picture book has captivated young readers with its simple yet engaging narrative and unique illustrations. Designed for preschoolers and early elementary school children, the book cleverly addresses themes of fear and empowerment. Through its interactive format and colorful illustrations, Emberley creates a captivating atmosphere that encourages children to confront their fears, making it a staple in many classrooms and libraries.

Overview of "Go Away Big Green Monster"

"Go Away Big Green Monster" is a story that revolves around a big green monster who is introduced to the readers through a series of illustrations. The monster possesses various features that gradually get revealed throughout the pages, including big yellow eyes, a long purple tongue, and sharp white teeth. Each page presents a new aspect of the monster, building suspense and a sense of foreboding. However, the protagonist—a young child—takes control of the situation by commanding the monster to go away. This interactive format not only engages children but also empowers them to confront their fears head-on.

Plot Summary

The narrative is straightforward and follows a repetitive structure that is easy for children to remember. The story begins with the introduction of the big green monster, whose features are unveiled one by one:

1. **Big Green Face:** The story starts with the big green face of the monster.
2. **Yellow Eyes:** Next, the monster is revealed to have big yellow eyes.
3. **Purple Tongue:** As the pages turn, the monster's long purple tongue is shown.
4. **Sharp White Teeth:** The sharp white teeth make an appearance, adding to the monster's frightening persona.
5. **Hairy Green Ears:** The monster's hairy green ears are revealed next.
6. **A Big, Scary Nose:** The nose adds to the monster's intimidating look.

After each feature is introduced, the child asserts their power by telling the monster to go away. As the story progresses, the monster becomes less intimidating as the child continuously orders it to disappear. Eventually, the monster leaves, reinforcing the idea that fear can be conquered and that children have the power to control their fears.

Thematic Elements

Fear and Empowerment

One of the central themes of "Go Away Big Green Monster" is the concept of fear. Many children experience fear of the dark, monsters, or other unknown entities. Emberley skillfully captures this sentiment and provides a means for children to confront and manage their fears. The repetitive command to "go away" empowers young readers, giving them a voice against their anxieties. This theme resonates with children, allowing them to feel in control of their emotions.

Interactive Reading Experience

The book's design encourages participation, making it an interactive experience for both the reader and the audience. The use of bright, bold colors and large illustrations draws children in, while the rhythmic, repetitive text invites them to join in the reading. This interactive approach not only makes reading fun but also enhances comprehension and retention. Children can easily memorize the phrases and participate in the storytelling, fostering a love for reading from an early age.

Illustration Style

Ed Emberley's illustration style is distinctive and plays a crucial role in the book's appeal. His use of simple shapes and bold colors creates a playful aesthetic that captures the attention of young readers. The illustrations are not overly complex, making it easy for children to grasp the characteristics of the monster without feeling overwhelmed.

Color Palette

The color palette used throughout "Go Away Big Green Monster" is vibrant and eye-catching. The use of contrasting colors—such as the green of the monster against the bright backgrounds—helps to highlight the monster's features. This strategic use of color not only adds to the visual appeal but also aids in maintaining children's focus on the story.

Character Design

The monster itself is designed in a way that is both frightening and approachable. While the monster has features that could elicit fear, its cartoonish style makes it less threatening. The exaggerated characteristics—such as oversized eyes and a goofy grin—allow children to view the monster more as a whimsical character rather than a source of fear. This balance is essential in helping children confront their anxieties in a safe, controlled manner.

Educational Benefits

"Go Away Big Green Monster" is not only an engaging story but also serves multiple educational purposes. It can be used in various learning environments to achieve several objectives.

Promoting Emotional Intelligence

By addressing fears and anxieties, the book plays an essential role in promoting emotional intelligence among young readers. It encourages children to identify their feelings and articulate them. When children see the character confronting the monster, they learn that it is okay to express fear and that they have the ability to overcome it.

Language Development

The repetitive nature of the text supports language development. As children hear and repeat the phrases, they practice vocabulary and improve their verbal skills. The book's rhythmic quality also aids in developing phonemic awareness, a critical component of reading readiness.

Story Comprehension

The structure of the story—where features of the monster are gradually introduced—supports comprehension skills. Children learn to anticipate what comes next, enhancing their ability to make predictions and understand narrative structure. This skill is fundamental to developing reading comprehension in later stages of learning.

Conclusion

"Go Away Big Green Monster" by Ed Emberley is more than just a children's book; it is a powerful tool for helping young readers confront and manage their fears. Through its interactive format, vibrant illustrations, and engaging narrative, the book provides an enriching experience that promotes emotional intelligence, language development, and story comprehension. Its lasting popularity speaks to the effectiveness of Emberley's approach to storytelling and his ability to connect with children on an emotional level. As a result, "Go Away Big Green Monster" remains a cherished classic in children's literature, continuing to inspire and empower young readers to face their fears with confidence.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Go Away, Big Green Monster!' by Ed Emberley?

The main theme of the book is to help children confront and overcome their fears by empowering them to take control of the monster and ultimately make it go away.

How does Ed Emberley use illustrations to enhance the story in 'Go Away, Big Green Monster!'?

Ed Emberley uses bold, colorful illustrations that gradually reveal the features of the big green monster, creating a playful and interactive experience that engages young readers and encourages them to participate in the story.

What age group is 'Go Away, Big Green Monster!' targeted towards?

The book is primarily targeted towards preschool and early elementary-aged children, typically ages 2 to 6, as it addresses common childhood fears in a relatable and entertaining way.

Can 'Go Away, Big Green Monster!' be used as an educational tool?

Yes, the book can be used as an educational tool to teach children about emotions, fear, and empowerment, as well as to promote reading skills through its repetitive and engaging text.

What impact has 'Go Away, Big Green Monster!' had on children's literature?

The book has become a classic in children's literature, praised for its imaginative approach to addressing fears, and has inspired numerous read-aloud sessions and educational activities, encouraging children to express and manage their emotions.

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