On Meadowview Street
by Henry Cole
Greenwillow Books, 2007

Let’s Do Nothing!
by Tony Fucile
Candlewick Press, 2009

The Odd Egg
by Emily Gravett
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2009

Princess Hyacinth
(The Surprising Tale of a Girl Who Floated)
by Florence Heide
illustrated by Lane Smith
Schwartz & Wade Books, 2009

I Need My Monster
by Amanda Noll
illustrated by Howard McWilliam
Flashlight Press, 2009
California Young Reader Medal
Primary Ballot 2011-2012

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_____ Let's Do Nothing!
_____ The Odd Egg
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Library Storytime Series
Themes for Primary Titles

You will find great suggestions under “Storytime Theme” for each of the nominated primary category books—books to read aloud, books to share, and a craft or activity. The wonderful thing about the multifaceted CYRM books is that you can use the same book to explore many themes. The “Connections” section for each nominated book has additional themes and related books.

A key goal of the library storytime series is to develop a core audience of children eager to vote for their favorite books. To encourage children to come to all programs, you can make your storytime into a mini “club.” You might want to make buttons for children to color and wear to each storytime. Other ideas include having children draw pictures of their favorite books displayed, or staging a “Jeopardy” style quiz show using the nominated books for your questions.

Storytime themes are sure to be a hit with children visiting your library!
**I Need My Monster**

by Amanda Noll
illustrated by Howard McWilliam

**Synopsis**

When Ethan checks under his bed for his monster Gabe, all he finds is a note, “Gone fishing.” Will Gabe come back? What will Ethan do without him? A steady flow of substitute monsters come to visit Ethan. But none of them are Gabe. When Gabe comes back, Ethan knows that he is the monster for him!

**Hooks**

- Do you believe in monsters under the bed?

- If you do, what does yours look like?

- Why do we need imaginary friends? Have you ever had an imaginary friend of your own?

- Tell someone in your life you love them today! It is so important to let our friends and family know they are special to us! Who would you show your love to?
Meet the Author—Amanda Noll

Amanda Noll was born and raised in Australia and came to the United States as a teenager. She worked for several years at a private university, but gave up that career to concentrate on her writing. She currently lives in the Pacific Northwest with her family.

Learn more about Amanda Noll at:
www.amandanoll.com

Meet the Illustrator—Howard McWilliam

Henry McWilliam left a career as a magazine editor and journalist to concentrate on his growing career as a cartoonist and illustrator. He has illustrated fourteen children’s books.
Connections for *I Need My Monster*

**Bedtime Stories – Fiction**


**Monsters – Fiction**


Read Aloud


Sierra, Judy. *Thelonius Monster’s Sky-high Fly Pie*. Dragonfly Books, 2010 reprint. Grades PreS–2. Thelonius thinks a pie made out of flies would be a good dessert and invites all his friends and relatives over to try it.


Storytime Theme for *I Need My Monster*

Poetry and Movement

**There’s A Monster**

- There’s a monster in my room. (Point both thumbs to self)
- There’s a monster with jagged hair. (Move fingers up and down by hair)
- There’s a monster under my bed. (Look under a bed)
- There are monsters everywhere. (Circle arms up and around)

- There’s a monster with scratchy claws. (Shape hands like claws)
- There’s a monster with scary sounds. (Make scary sounds)
- There’s a monster with green ooze. (Palms down and move out)
- There are monsters all around. (Circle arms up and around)

- There’s a monster with a slimy tail. (Make a tail)
- There’s a monster next to me. (Look beside self)
- There are monsters everywhere. (Circle arms up and around)
- That only I can see. (Point both thumbs to self and to eyes)

Art Activity

**Directed Drawing of a Monster**

- Sketch a large circle to create the body of your monster.
- Add a smaller circle on top of this to add a head to your monster.
- Draw two half circles with the flat portion facing down below the body of your monster to form his feet. How much space you leave between the body and the feet will determine how tall your monster is.
- Place small circular hands near each side of the body. The farther away the circles are, the longer the arms will be.
- Connect each of the monster’s legs to his body with two lines. The further apart these lines are, the bigger the legs. Create knees by bringing the lines in slightly at the midpoint between the foot and the body.
- Repeat for the arms.
- Add the monster details. You can make your monster as scary or as cute as you want. Sharp teeth, big eyes, jagged mouth, ears.
Center Activities for *I Need My Monster*

The following are integrated ideas for art, math, literature, science and social studies.

### Art Activities

- Design your own monster. Give it a name and describe it. Tell where it lives when it’s not under your bed, what it likes to do, what it eats, what kind of noise it makes, etc.

- Put the classes’ monsters into a book and put it in the classroom library.

- Use modeling clay or play dough to make a monster. Give it a name and describe it.

- Make a display of all the monsters.

### Social Studies Activity

- Make a class list of things kids might be afraid of. Discuss them.

- Divide the list into Real Things and Not Real Things.

### Homework Activity

- Go home and look under your bed. Make a list of everything you find.

### Music Activities

- Dance to “The Monster Mash.”

- Listen to “One Eyed, One Horned Flying Purple People Eater.”

### Literature Activity

- Write a story about what your monster would do and where it would go if it went on vacation for a week.
Math Activity – Monster Math

- Draw a line to put each monster under the correct bed.
Science Activities – Slimy Concoctions

**GOOEY GUNK**
(A slimy, stretchy, gooey recipe)

- **What you will need:**

  **Solution A**
  1 cup of water
  1 cup of glue
  2 tablespoons of liquid tempera paint or 7-10 drops food coloring

  **Solution B**
  1 1/3 cup of warm water
  4 tablespoons of borax laundry booster

- **How to concoct it:**

  1. Mix ingredients in **Solution A** together in a medium bowl.
  2. In a second medium bowl, mix the ingredients in **Solution B** together until the borax is completely dissolved.
  3. Slowly pour **Solution A** into **Solution B**. DO NOT MIX.
  4. Roll **Solution A** around in **Solution B** 4 or 5 times.
  5. Lift **Solution A** out of **Solution B** and knead for 2 – 3 minutes.
  6. Store GUNK in an airtight container or plastic zip bag.

- **Tips and Ideas:**

  Use red paint or food coloring to create LAVA GUNK, green to create SLIMY GUNK, or black to create TAR GUNK.

Center Activities for *I Need My Monster*

Science Activities – Slimy Concoctions

MAGIC MUCK  
(turns from a liquid into a solid and back again)

- **What you will need:**
  
  ¾ cup of cornstarch  
  1/3 cup of water  
  5 - 7 drops of food coloring

- **How to concoct it:**

  1. Mix water and food coloring together in a small bowl.  
  2. Slowly add cornstarch to water mixture. DO NOT STIR.  
  3. Let the mixture stand for 2 - 3 minutes.  
  4. Pick up a handful of MAGIC MUCK and squeeze it until it forms a hard ball. Open your hand and the MAGIC MUCK will turn from a solid ball back into a liquid.


www.kidconcoctions.com
Art Activity—Crazy Critters

CRAZY CRITTERS

• What you will need:

  1/3 cup quick-setting Plaster of Paris
  5 Tablespoons of water
  1 Tablespoon of tempera paint or 5 - 7 drops food coloring
  Supplies to decorate: google eyes, feathers, glitter, etc.
  Balloons of assorted sizes
  Funnel with large opening

• How to concoct it:

  1. Blow up a balloon as large as possible. Clamp the end of the balloon shut with a paper clip or clothespin. Allow it to stretch for 5 -10 minutes.
  2. Deflate the balloon and attach it to the funnel.
  3. Mix water, plaster, and paint/food coloring together until smooth.
     Pour plaster mixture into the balloon. Remove the funnel and tie balloon shut.
  4. Stretch the balloon into any shape and hold it until plaster begins to become firm.
  5. Let the balloon set for 1 hour.
  6. Tear balloon off the plaster shape.
  7. Paint or decorate your CRAZY CRITTER.


Literature Activity

Give your “critter” a good monster name and make up a story about it. Share your story with a friend.