

Analysing Characterisation, Voice and
Transformation in Patrick Ness's
A Monster Calls:
a student work ebook



Lessons and exercises based on developing skills
in exploring characterisation, transformation
and voice in *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness

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Voice and Transformation in
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1. Key idea in the novel: Facing Fears

Facing fears! That seems like a really big thing to do. We all have fears. Some of us may be good at hiding our fears, but we all have them. Some may also be better than others at managing their fears.

So, what exactly is 'fear'? Talk with a friend and jot down your ideas below:

You may have come up with ideas such as a fear is a very uncomfortable feeling caused by the threat of danger or pain.

Can you think of any reasons why we have fears? What purpose do they serve us as human beings? Talk with a friend and jot down your ideas below:

We might have fears because of experiences we've had in the past. If pain was felt, we may be fearful of experiencing it again. Fears can serve the purpose of warning us of upcoming danger. They can also stop us from doing something. Sometimes that might be a good thing, but other times it can hold us back from reaching our full potential.

A Monster Calls looks at how a young boy transforms by facing a huge fear. This fear is probably one that we all share. And it's probably one of the biggest we could have, especially as a young person. This work ebook will help you to not only look at how fears are dealt with in the novel, but could help you to face your own fears in life.

Complete the exercise below.

Exercise 1: Facing fears

1. Write a list of your top 5 fears. Share these with a partner.
2. Choose one of your fears. How might this fear have come about? Can you remember an incident that triggered this fear? Share this with a partner or write about it.
3. Represent this fear through drawing or a symbol.

4. With a partner talk about what your symbol means to you. Ask you partner what they see in your image. Can they relate to your fear?

Extend yourself

1. If you could talk to your fear, what would you say to it?
2. With a partner, brainstorm ways you could overcome your fear.
3. Imagine you are your fear. Write to yourself by answering the following questions:

What do you want to say?

Why are you a fear in’s (your name) life?

How can this fear help to grow and learn?

Writing space

[illegible]