

AN EDUCATOR'S GUIDE FOR **MONSTERS IN THE MIST** BY JULIANA BRANDT



Common Core Aligned Educator's Guide

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Glennon McCue moves into a lighthouse on a mysterious island, he must figure out why those who visit are never heard from again...*before he and his family fall victim to the island's curse.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND JOURNALING PROMPTS

- In Chapter 1, Glennon has a frightening experience while on his bike, but he convinces himself that what he experienced wasn't real. Why do you think he did that?
- In Chapter 5, Glennon writes two versions of the events of the shipwreck. Why does he do this? *Extension: Have you ever kept a project secret, just for yourself, like Glennon does with his writing?*
- By Chapter 8, Glennon is convinced something terrible is happening, but he can't quite pinpoint what. What clues does Glennon have that something bad is going on? *Extension: When is a time you felt like something was wrong, but you couldn't explain why you felt that way?*
- In Chapter 17, Townsend transforms into a monster, but she doesn't attack Glennon. Why do you believe she makes this choice?
- The mystery of what The Waning is grows throughout the book. What do you believe The Waning will turn out to be?
- At the beginning of the book, it seems like Glennon doesn't like his sister, Lee. By the end, we know he truly values who she is. What does Glennon value about Lee? *Extension: Who do you value in your life and why?*
- At the end of the story, Glennon must directly confront Isle Philippeaux, when the island has taken on the form of his father. Glennon is very scared, but he finds the bravery to do what he needs to do. Why is he able to do this? *Extension: When have you had to be brave?*
- How people love one another is a major theme in *Monsters in the Mist*. How do the people who love you show that they love you?
- Anger is a recurring theme in *Monsters in the Mist*. What is your experience with anger? How is it similar or different from the anger Glennon has experienced?

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WRITING ACTIVITY PROMPTS

The title for *Monsters in the Mist* was originally *The Phantom Island*. Which title do you like better? Why? If you had to choose a different title for the book, what would you choose? Use details from the text when explaining your answer.

Imagine you want to turn this book into a movie and need to pitch it to a film director. Write a one paragraph summary of *Monsters in the Mist*.

Glennon doesn't have any sort of magic, but he's helped by magical objects throughout the story. Choose one object below and describe how it assisted him.

1. Compact mirror
2. Atlas
3. Seamus, the cat

Extension: What other magical object would have been helpful for Glennon?

Glennon would never have been able to escape Isle Philippeaux without the help of other people. Choose one person and write a paragraph summary of how they helped him.

1. Lee
2. Uncle Job
3. Gibraltar
4. Townsend

It isn't until the very end of the story that the reader understands that the true antagonist isn't Everett, but is instead the island itself. How did learning that Everett was imprisoned by the island, just like all the other ghosts, change how you felt about him?

Examine the setting of *Monsters in the Mist*. How did the setting influence your reading of the book? If the book had taken place somewhere else—like in a valley or on a beach beside the ocean—how would the story have changed?

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The following three themes can be found in *Monsters in the Mist*. Choose one and determine where it's demonstrated in the text.

- **Anger:** Anger is a feeling, just like happiness or joy, and isn't negative in and of itself. What makes anger "bad" is what people choose to do with it, but people can channel their anger into good causes as well.
- **Love:** People "love" others in different ways, but all people should be loved with kindness.
- **Facing Fears:** Facing your fears can be terrifying but doing so can help us become better versions of ourselves.

Extension: Think-pair-share the following questions: How are the statements above about human nature true or not? How do the above themes develop throughout the text?

There are often "tropes" in books and movies. A trope is a theme, plot device, or character type that can show up in many stories. Choose one of the following scary story tropes and describe how it's shown in the text.

1. Bad things happening to good people.
2. A terrifying and powerful monster that can't be reasoned with.
3. A claustrophobic setting that traps the characters.

Extension: What other scary tropes did you notice in Monsters in the Mist?

GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS AND PROJECTS

Create a "Character in a Box" project. Collect 5-10 items that relate to Glennon or another character of your choice. Be prepared to discuss why you chose each of the items.

Glennon comes to understand that each of the people in his life show him they care in very different ways. On the following chart, describe how characters show they care about Glennon.

LEE	MOM	UNCLE JOB

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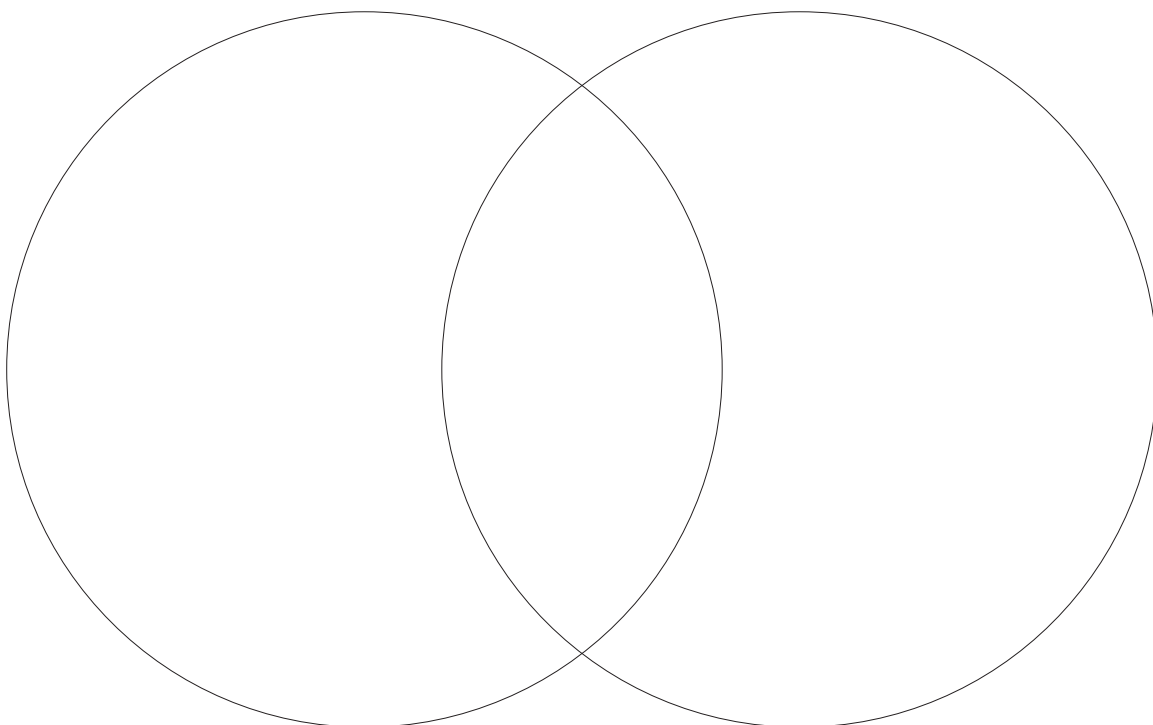


The following literary devices can be found in *Monsters in the Mist*. Find an example of each and explain what is being compared and/or the effect the device has.

LITERARY DEVICE	QUOTE	EXPLANATION
Personification		
Alliteration		
Metaphor		
Simile		

Extension: How does the figurative language used in Monsters in the Mist impact meaning and tone?

Glennon's understanding of his relationship with his dad changes throughout the story. Complete a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting how he views their relationship at the beginning of the story versus at the end, and how it might stay the same.



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In scary books or movies, characters are often both physically trapped and emotionally trapped. Using the following graphic organizer, list out how Glennon is physically trapped and emotionally trapped while on Isle Philippeaux.

PHYSICALLY TRAPPED	EMOTIONALLY TRAPPED

Several motifs, or patterns, are used throughout *Monsters in the Mist*. Create a picture and word collage of how one of the following motifs and quotes makes you feel and how it makes you reflect on the story.

1. **Magic:** “Any magic that exists in the world is the magic inside yourself.”
2. **Love:** “...love healed the broken parts of him, just a little.”
3. **Anger:** “What was anger when it didn’t exist to hurt?”
4. **Mirrors:** “Mirrors do a lovely job of showing us the truth of things.”
5. **Monsters:** “Magic isn’t real, but monsters are.”

Small group activity: *Monsters in the Mist* is written from Glennon’s point of view. Think about the story and how it might have been different if the story were written from the point of view of another character. Would the events have been the same? How might they have been different? Give one of the following characters to each group to discuss.

1. Lee
2. Townsend
3. Kit
4. Mom
5. Uncle Job
6. Gibraltar

Extension: Choose a scene from the story and write it from the point of view of a different character. Complete a reader’s theater, act out the scene, or read it out loud to the class.

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Use the following graphic organizers to write down details you would include in an oral book talk.

BOOK TALK FOCUSING ON THE TEXT

<p>The Hook: Include the biggest “hook” in the first chapters of the story that will grab the listener’s attention</p>	
<p>The Content: Include details of the main “meat” of the story. What is the biggest problem the main character must work to solve?</p>	
<p>The Cliffhanger: Include a last detail you will give to inspire the listener to want to read the book.</p>	

BOOK TALK FOCUSING ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

<p>Attention grabber: Include why you first wanted to read the book.</p>	
<p>Message: Include the main part of the story that resonated with you. How did the book relate to your own personal experiences?</p>	
<p>Motivation: Include a last detail of why you think the listener should also read the book</p>	

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CROSS-CURRICULAR PROMPTS

HISTORY

Isle Philippeaux in *Monsters in the Mist* is inspired by a fake island that was drawn on a map in 1744 by mapmaker Jacques-Nicolas Bellin. The island was then replicated on other maps for many years, before people realized it didn't actually exist. How do you think it was possible for a mapmaker to fabricate a false island?

This book takes place in the year 1989. Had the book taken place any later in time, it would have needed to include technology that might have made the story impossible. How would the book have been different if it would have included:

1. Cell phones
2. Google Earth
3. Modern maps created by satellites

Graving Lighthouse is inspired by Split Rock Lighthouse in Two Harbors, MN. Read about Split Rock Lighthouse on the Minnesota Historical Society website and find three ways in which Split Rock is similar to Graving.

The shipwreck at the start of *Monsters in the Mist* is inspired by the very true story of the *Madeira*, a ship that crashed near Split Rock Lighthouse in 1905. Read the story of the *Madeira* and find two ways in which the story is similar to the wreck of the *Anabeth* in *Monsters in the Mist*.

SCIENCE

Weather plays an important role in *Monsters in the Mist*. The island and the ghosts have the ability to control the weather. Write a paragraph describing how the weather changes throughout the book.

It's estimated that there have been 10,000 shipwrecks on the Great Lakes with 350 of them taking place on Lake Superior, where *Monsters in the Mist* is set. Why do you think the Great Lakes, in particular Lake Superior, is so dangerous?

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ART

In *Monsters in the Mist* there is an atlas of Isle Philippeaux. In it, there are many different maps of the island, each one of them slightly different; they have different outlines, different landmarks, and different lighthouses. Create your own map of Isle Philippeaux that could be included in the atlas.

Extension: complete one of the following.

1. *Write a short story or description of the island.*
2. *Create a collage of images or symbols depicting Isle Philippeaux and Lake Superior.*
3. *Take a picture of an image that reminds you of a location in *Monsters in the Mist* and write a paragraph explaining the connection. (Option: take the class on a photo challenge outside with cameras or phones to do this project together.)*

On the cover of *Monsters in the Mist* is the depiction of Graving Lighthouse. Paint, draw, or, using a medium of your choosing, create your own picture of the lighthouse.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

At the end of the book is a letter to the reader, written by the author. After reading this, how does it make you reflect differently on the story and on Glennon's journey?

This guide aligns with the following Common Core Standards:

CSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W. 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 6.3, 6.4, 6.9, 6.10, 7.3, 7.4, 7.9, 7.10