

# Activity Kit!



## My Teacher Is a **MONSTER!** (No, I Am Not.)

A new picture book from  
**Peter Brown**

*Creator of Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*



**Monsters  
are not always  
what they seem.**



BOBBY HAS THE WORST TEACHER. She stomps. She yells. And if you throw a paper airplane, she won't let you enjoy recess. She is a monster!

Luckily, Bobby can go to his favorite park on the weekends to forget his teacher problems. But one Saturday morning, guess who Bobby runs into at the park? Bobby is about to discover that monsters are not always what they seem.

Caldecott Honor artist Peter Brown adds his charming spin to a common problem in this funny and original tale, and reminds us all that there's often more to people than meets the eye.

[peterbrownstudio.com](http://peterbrownstudio.com)

[lb-kids.com](http://lb-kids.com)

Dear Booksellers, Teachers, Librarians, and Parents:

Let's face it—some adults are scary. They make us sit still when we want to wiggle. They don't let us talk to our friends during story hour. They're monsters! This can be especially true for kids heading to school for the first time or facing a new teacher with new rules.

Master storyteller Peter Brown adds his unique perspective to this age-old problem in *My Teacher Is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)*. Young Bobby thinks Ms. Kirby is horrible, until he meets her outside the classroom in the local park. As they work together to retrieve Ms. Kirby's lost hat, quack with the ducks in the pond, and even fly a paper airplane, Ms. Kirby slowly becomes more human in Bobby's eyes. Maybe Bobby's teacher—and his fears—aren't as bad as he thought . . .

The activities in this kit will help you explore the teacher/student relationship and the fallibility of first impressions with the young children in your lives. You'll find discussion questions, activity ideas, fun handouts, and more to share with children as you enjoy together *My Teacher Is a Monster! (No I Am Not.)*.

Happy reading!

Your monstrous friends at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

# Discussion Questions



Read *My Teacher Is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)* aloud and then lead a discussion of the book using the questions below.

- \* How would you describe your teacher? Is he/she mean all the time? Is he/she nice?
- \* What is Bobby's teacher, Ms. Kirby, like in the classroom?
- \* What happens in the story when Bobby goes to the park? Who does he meet there?
- \* Have you ever seen your teacher outside of school? Did it seem strange?
- \* What does Bobby do for Ms. Kirby in the park that makes her exclaim, "Oh, Bobby, you are my hero!"?
- \* What other things do Bobby and Ms. Kirby do together in the park?
- \* How does the illustration of Ms. Kirby change over the course of the story?
- \* How does Bobby's opinion of Ms. Kirby back at school change after their weekend adventure in the park? Was Ms. Kirby still a monster?
- \* Do you think Ms. Kirby's impression of Bobby also changed after their adventure? In what ways does Bobby's behavior affect how Ms. Kirby treats him?
- \* Have you ever thought one thing about someone, only to have that original impression change once you got to know him or her better?
- \* If your teacher seems like a monster sometimes, how might you get to know him or her better?

# Group Activities

Use the ideas below to share *My Teacher is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)* in the classroom, at a bookstore event, or right at home!



Bring the “monster” aspect of the book alive for young readers by making your reading of the book a bit more dramatic and exciting. Get a silly Halloween monster mask from a local party store—nothing too scary as you will be sharing the book with little ones! Gather the children around and don the monster mask. Read *My Teacher Is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)* aloud. When you get to the line, “And then Ms. Kirby had an idea,” remove the mask and ask the children to look closely at the illustrations on the subsequent page. Ask, “What was Ms. Kirby’s idea?” Continue reading the book with the mask off, until the very last page. Wear it again when you shout, “Robert!” Ask the children why you took the mask off in the middle of the story, and why you put it back on again at the end.



Bobby and Ms. Kirby enjoy quacking with the ducks in the park. Play a rousing game of “Duck, Duck, Monster!” with the children after you read the story. Follow the rules of the classic game “Duck, Duck, Goose!” substituting “monster!” for “goose!” As the “monster” runs around the circle of children in an effort to tag the “duck,” have the seated children quack like ducks.



Bobby thought Ms. Kirby was a monster, until he spent time with her outside of class and discovered that his first impression of her wasn’t really accurate. Look through the illustrations in the book with the children and notice how Ms. Kirby’s appearance changes over the course of the story. Invite each child to draw a portrait of his/her nice teacher (worksheet follows).



In school, Bobby gets in trouble for flying a paper airplane in class, but in the park, Bobby and Ms. Kirby enjoy “the single greatest paper airplane flight in history!” Make paper airplanes (worksheets follow) and hold a contest to see which one can fly the farthest.



Gather some props—the monster mask you wore while reading the book aloud, a paper airplane, a floppy hat, an empty handbag—and invite teams of children to act out the events of the story in their own words.



# My Teacher

Luckily, teachers aren't really monsters. Draw a picture of your nice teacher in the frame below.



A large, empty rectangular frame with a thick teal border, intended for drawing a picture of a teacher. At the bottom of the frame, there is a light blue horizontal bar containing the text "My Teacher" followed by a long horizontal line for a name.

My Teacher \_\_\_\_\_



# Ms. Kirby's Transformation

Over the course of the story, Ms. Kirby gets less and less monstrous in Bobby's eyes. Look at the images of Ms. Kirby below. Number them in the right order as Ms. Kirby changes from monster (#1) to human (#4).



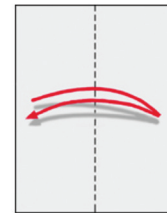
# Paper Airplane

Bobby loves to make and fly paper airplanes. Print the airplane template on the following page using a color printer. Make enough copies for each child. Walk the children through the step-by-step folding instructions below.



## Step 1

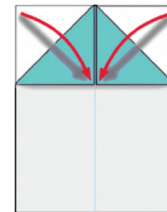
Place the airplane template print side down on a table or hard surface. The white side of the paper should be facing up. Fold the paper in half lengthwise and run your finger along the folded edge to make a crease. Open the paper, white side facing up.



Step 1

## Step 2

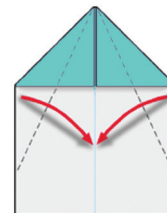
Fold down the top corners toward the center to meet at the crease, as shown. Your paper should look like a house with a colorful roof.



Step 2

## Step 3

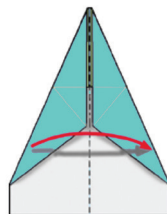
Take the outside corners at the “roof” edges and fold them toward the center to meet at the crease, as shown.



Step 3

## Step 4

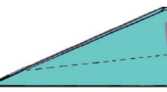
Fold the left side completely over the right at the crease, as shown. Your paper should look like a long colorful triangle with a slightly squared bottom.



Step 4

## Step 5

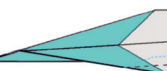
Turn your paper to the right, so that the crease is now forming the bottom edge, as shown. Fold the top of your triangle down toward the bottom along the black dotted line. This will create a wing of your plane. Turn the paper over do the same on the other side. You now have two wings!



Step 5

## Step 6

On the underside of each wing, you’ll see a red dotted line. Fold the edges up on both wings along this dotted line, as shown. Your plane is now finished!



Step 6



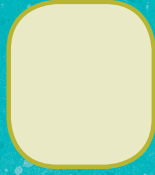
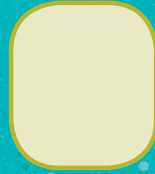
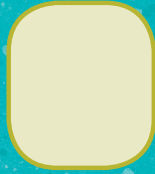
**Monster Airlines, ready for take off!**



# Airplane Template

Fold as shown in the instructions to create a paper airplane!

Monster Airlines



Monster Airlines

Monster Airlines

Monster Airlines



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# Books by Peter Brown



## PETER BROWN

has always loved telling stories. While growing up in New Jersey, he told stories by drawing whimsical characters and scenes from his imagination. As a teenager, he fell in love with writing, and told his stories using words. While studying illustration at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, Peter's love of both words and pictures led him to take several courses on children's books, and before long, he knew he'd found his calling.

Peter's many children's books have earned him numerous awards, including a Caldecott Honor in 2013 for *Creepy Carrots!*



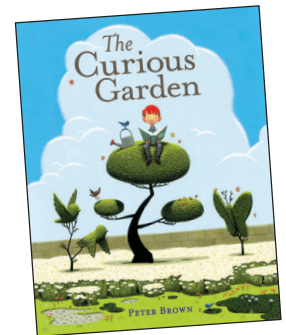
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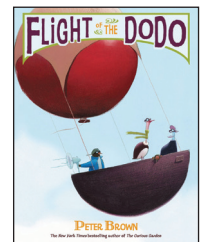


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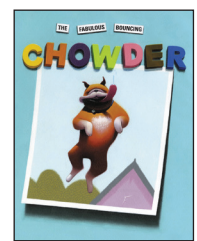
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