**What to do today**

*IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.*

**1. It’s poem time!**

Read and ~~shiver at~~ enjoy the monster poem, *It’s Behind You!* by David Harmer.

* Would you have been able to stop yourself turning round?
* What would you have done to save the poor person in the poem?

**2. Exclamation marks and emphasis**

Look at *It’s Behind You!*

* Follow the instructions on **Looking at the Poem**, and highlight some of the punctuation.
* Read the poem again, using the exclamation marks and capital letters as a guide to where to really stress lines and/or words.

**3. Let’s get ready to write**

What do you think the monster in the poem would actually have looked like?

* Draw your idea of the monster on *Behind You!*
* Describe your monster using full, accurately punctuated sentences.
* Include two exclamation marks and two capitalised words for emphasis in your writing. *A really ENORMOUS pair of fangs!*

**Now try this Fun-Time Extra**

* Think about a time you had a jump or a shock. Draw and write about what happened on *It Made Me Jump!*

**It’s Behind You!**

I don’t want to scare you

But just behind you

Is a ........................

No! Don’t look!

Just act calmly

As if it wasn’t there.

Like I said

Can you hear me if I whisper?

Just behind you

Is a ..................

NO! DON’T LOOK!

Just keep on reading

Don’t turn round, believe me

It isn’t worth it.

If you could see

What I can see standing there

You'd understand.

It’s probably one

Of the harmless sort

Although with that mouth

Not to mention those teeth

And all the blood dripping down its chin

I wouldn’t like to say.

DON’T TURN ROUND!

Listen

It’s trying to speak

I think it wants to be friends.

Oh, I see, it doesn’t!

Never mind

You’d better leave just in case

I expect you’ll escape

If you don’t turn round.

Oh what a shame.

I really did think

You’d make it to the door.

Hard luck

I expect it eats all its friends.

*David Harmer*

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|  | **It’s Behind You! Monster Poems**  by Paul Cookson and David Harmer,  MacMillan Children’s Books, 2010 |

**Looking at the Poem…**



* What is the punctuation mark called at the end of the title?
* Highlight all the exclamation marks in the poem. How many are there?
* Why are they there?
* Highlight all the words in capital letters. Why has the writer done this with these words?
* Read the poem again. This time, use the exclamation marks and capital letters as a guide to where to really stress lines and/or words.

Ask someone to listen to you read.

Can they hear how good it sounds?

**Looking at the Poem…*With notes for adults***



* What is the punctuation mark called at the end of the title? *An exclamation mark.*
* Highlight all the exclamation marks in the poem. How many are there? *7 including the one at the end of the title.*
* Why are they there? *To show these lines are being said forcefully and with emphasis.*
* Highlight all the words in capital letters. Why has the writer done this with these words? *Again, to emphasise or stress those words.*
* Read the poem again. This time, use the exclamation marks and capital letters as a guide to where to really stress lines and/or words.

Ask someone to listen to you read.

Can they hear how good it sounds?

**Behind You!**

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**It Made Me Jump!**

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