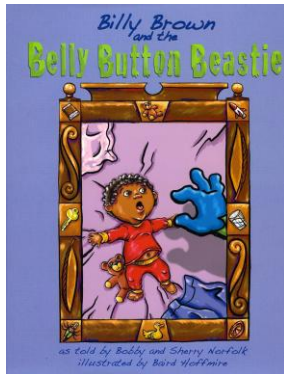


# Read Aloud Guide for Families



## Billy Brown and the Belly Button Beastie

**Themes:** courage, resourcefulness, humor

**Book Brief:** An adaptation of a Japanese folktale, a young boy discovers the legendary Belly Button Beastie is real after ignoring his mother's warnings about kicking off his blankets at night. How does he conquer his fear about the beastie?

### READ ALOUD

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#### Before Reading: Build Background

- Ask, "Have you ever been afraid of something, especially in the dark at night? How did that make you feel?"

#### While Reading: Make Connections

- Think about how Billy Brown imagined the worst but then found a way to conquer his fear.
- What are you finding funny about what Billy Brown fears, especially in looking at the illustrations?

#### After Reading: Ask Questions

- Ask, "What did you learn about being afraid from this story?"
- "Would you do something similar to what he did to conquer his fears? If not, what would you do?"

### RELATED ACTIVITIES

#### If your child enjoyed this book:

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- Create a chart and list things that cause fear in people your age. Then add a column that lists ideas of how to think through those fears and find a way through conquering those fears.
- Read more books about kids who face real or funny situations where being afraid is a theme.