

Billy Brown and the Belly Button Beastie



READ ALOUD GUIDE

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?

Author:
Bobby & Sherry Norfolk

Illustrator:
Baird Hoffmire

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you been scared after hearing a story, whether it is true or not?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how the young boy imagined the worst but then found a way to conquer his fear."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why did the Billy Brown get so fearful after the story about the Belly Button Beastie?
- How did Billy's friends help him brainstorm some possible solutions to his problem?
- What "trick" did Billy play on the Belly Button Beastie?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did Billy get over being scared?

Extending Our Thinking: Using a large piece of paper, have the students brainstorm some common childhood fears, along with some ideas for conquering those fears.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.