

## 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*



### **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!





# It Made Me Jump!

A writing area consisting of a rectangular box with a decorative border made of colorful interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue, yellow, red, and grey. Inside the box, there are seven horizontal lines for writing.