

Name: Date:.....

***A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness - reading comprehension**

Read the following narrative poem based on *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness.

A Monster Calls

Conor's Nightmare - THE nightmare - stalked his mind;
The wind laughed: sudden - short - breaths;
Sweat trickled as he thrashed like the sea.

Conor awoke.

Awoke into the nightmare.

The nightmare beyond his bedroom window.

Out in the cold gloom; depths of the garden...

A crack in the soil - black, tearing wound

Forced apart by a gnarled hand of twisted twigs.

A form, a huge shape; a knotted, mangled inhuman giant.

Red eyes glared. Mouth dripping dank hatred.

It stepped forward.

Trees were thrown aside; arms flail and destroy.

Shed crushed like an eggshell;

Earth retreating in trembling thuds;

Leaves shiver, wildlife panics -

Closer - Closer - CLOSER!

Baleful beady eyes and a hellish leering maw.

The spotlight moon shone coldly on the scene

A silver, sardonic skull;

A frozen grimace;

An audience staring at the monster,

Pressing its vine-tangled arms against the house.

The monster peered in the window. Smiling. Hungry.

The moon mesmerises. The monster speaks.

Its voice pierces his mind, body, soul.

"Come with me. You are now *mine!*"

Conor gasps. Conor reels in a hard breath: Conor becomes steel.

"No! NO! I'm not scared of you anymore!"

Fire explodes in the monster's heart. Ashes fly to the winds.



Answer the following questions based on the narrative poem.

Decode and explore vocabulary

Find three unfamiliar words in the poem to explore further.

Word	Guess the meaning	Actual meaning
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Retrieve

1. Make a list of the things the monster damages as it approaches:

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2. In verse 4, what evidence is there that the monster means to do something bad?

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Infer

3. Which word in the final paragraph suggests that Conor might still be in a dream?

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4. What is it that destroys the monster?

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Choice of language

5. What is your impression of Conor at the start of the poem, compared to Conor at the end of the poem? Supply two pieces of evidence.

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At the start of the poem...

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At the end of the poem...

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