

A Monster Calls – Teacher Model

Conor had a nightmare: the horrifying, howling wind; a torturous trickle of blood; sudden, short breaths; and a sinister, shadowy figure. He woke. He woke gasping. He woke trembling. Only semi-conscious, Conor sat up in bed. ‘What was that?’ he thought. Something was unfamiliar... something was different... something was very unfamiliar and very different.

12:07. Seven minutes past midnight. For Conor, time dragged desperately as his heart pounded in his chest. It was beating twice as fast as the ticking clock. Emerging from the darkness was his familiar teddy bear, his comforting duvet and the reassuring clicking of his radiator. Conor, who had leaned closer to the edge of his bed, looked back at the frozen clock.

The light of the moon cut through the darkness. The magnetic moon beckoned Conor. Shadows lingered in the garden – sinister, threatening.

Crash! The earth ripped. Thud! The soil parted. Boom! The terrain tore.

“Am I still in my nightmare?” thought Conor to himself calmly. Piercing from the depths were eyes as red as fresh embers. Conor watched as the tree emerged from the ground. Twigs tangled, roots wrenched and leaves laced to form the monster of his nightmares. Conor stared out at the beast. The monster lowered its gnarled twig-like hand.

“COME WITH ME!” it bellowed.

Conor said, “If I were to put myself in your hands, if I were to go with you, if I were to trust you, then what would you offer me?”

“I have come to get you Conor O’Malley,” thundered the monster.

“I’ll do what I want,” said Conor casually.

Stomping across the soil, the monster strangled clouds, tore at trees and pummelled brickwork. The clouds hid behind the moon, the trees trembled and the bricks shuddered in fear.

A real monster. An enormous real monster. An enormous, angry real monster. Shrugging his shoulders, yawning nonchalantly and leaning on the windowsill, Conor watched the monster. Despite the monster’s aggressive, threatening presence, Conor felt no fear.

“Shout all you want,” Conor shrugged, barely raising his voice. “I’ve seen worse.”