



LILI
WILKINSON

June 2021
ISBN 9781760877392
Format: Paperback
Recommended for 7 to 10 year olds

Summary

Have you ever wanted a pet monster?

If you are like me, the answer is NO, because you think monsters don't exist.

If you are like Willow, the answer is YES DEFINITELY.

Willow and I found an ancient spell book called the BIGGE BOKE of Fetching Monsters, which shows you how to make REAL MONSTERS. We made HODGEPODGE, who's a bit furry and a bit stinky. He's my best friend.

Willow wants to make a best friend, but I'm worried. Now that I know monsters are REAL, what if this new one is REALLY dangerous?

Author Style

Flummox: How to Make a Pet Monster 2 will delight young readers on many levels. Firstly, there's the humorous tension between the three main characters: uber-rational 11-year-old *Junior Scientist*-reading Artie, his new stepsister, Willow, who is messy, impulsive and equally smart, and the superficially perfect but lonely Arabella-Rose. Then there are the adorable pet monsters: Hodgepodge and Flummox, both super cute and mischievous and just the sort of 'pets' every young child would love to have around their house. There's even a super arch villain who turns out to have a heart of gold. And finally, there's Dustin Spence's hilarious retro comic style illustrations that capture and extend the craziness of the story.

Suggestions for Classroom Discussion and Application

Before reading

Before reading *Flummox: How to Make a Pet Monster 2*, examine the book's front cover. What sort of story do you think this is going to be? Happy or sad? Funny or serious? Do you think the story will be based in the real-world or some kind of fantasy world? What was it on the cover that helped you answer these questions? Take a moment to look at four important elements that make up this book's cover and write a sentence about each.

1. The TITLE, *Flummox: How to Make a Pet Monster 2*, makes me think the book will be... (fill in here) because... (fill in here).
2. The title's FONT makes me think the book will be... (fill in here) because... (fill in here).
3. The IMAGE of the two monsters makes me think that they will be.... (fill in here) because they look... (fill in here).
4. The COLOURS on the cover make me feel that the book will be... (fill in here) because... (fill in here).

Example:

The title's FONT makes me think the book will be *silly and fun* because *the letters in Pet Monster have been changed to include little bits of a monster, like the horn on the letter e and strange toes on the letter T.*

Comprehension Questions: Chapter 1

1. Why did Artie and Willow end up with Hodgepodge instead of a hobgoblin?
2. Why is Artie worried about making another monster?
3. What monster does Willow set out to make?
4. Why does Artie think a real science experiment with Willow would go very badly?
5. Why does Artie describe Arabella-Rose as SNOOTY?
6. What musical instrument does Willow play?
7. True or False: Arabella-Rose is a very modest* person. (*Look the word up in the dictionary if you are unsure of its meaning.)
8. Give an example of something Arabella-Rose says in the chapter that helped you answer Q7.
9. True or False: Willow is very friendly to Arabella-Rose.
10. Give an example of something Willow says in the chapter that helped you answer Q9.



Comprehension Questions: Chapter 2

1. Name one of David Cole's favourite dishes?
2. What is Artie's cat's name?
3. Why did Willow offer to play hide and seek with Arabella-Rose?
4. Who gave Arabella-Rose her charm bracelet?
5. Why is Willow so interested in the charm bracelet?
6. How can Artie tell where Hodgepodge is before he sees him?
7. What sort of jokes does Artie like to tell?
8. Why does Willow need to make Arabella-Rose laugh?
9. How does she capture Arabella-Rose's laugh?
10. What does Arabella-Rose accuse Willow of doing with the jar?

True or False: Chapter 3

1. Willow's monster appears just after a very strong smell of cabbages fills the room.
2. Willow is delighted by the look of the new monster.
3. The monster is ugly and fierce looking.
4. The monster SQUAWKS like a chicken.
5. Willow must give her monster a task to perform.

Text treatment

Sometimes the way words are shown on a page help tell the story. Turn to Chapter 4 and find examples of text:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - in upper case | - larger than the rest of the |
| - in bold | words in the sentence |
| - on an angle | - starting large but getting |
| - in a different font to the rest | smaller across the page |
| of the words in the sentence | - where words are underlined |

Explain why you think these changes were made and how they affected the way you read the story.

Describing words and figures of speech

- What adjectives would you use to describe Artie, Willow and Arabella-Rose? Which one of the three would you most like to have as a friend and why?
- What do you think Artie means when he describes Willow looking '*a bit like a dormant volcano that is on its way to being not-dormant*', (page 71) and later '*THE WILLOW-VOLCANO RUMBLES*' (page 74) and finally '*The Willow-volcano explodes*' (page 74)?
- Read the excerpt below. Why do you think Willow is sad when she sees Arabella-Rose and Flummox together?

Willow is watching them. I've seen that look on her face before, when she realised that she couldn't get her parents back together. She looks a bit like her heart is breaking. (page 114)

Characterisation

- Willow and Arabella-Rose are very different in the way they dress, the music they listen to and the things they like to do. Can you think of any traits they share that might make them very good friends in future stories?
- Who do you think the boy wearing a soccer uniform and a headband with a lightning bolt will be? What name would you give him? What super power might he have?

Anagrams

Artie solves the anagram in the ceiling of the Monster Club in Chapter 6. Can you solve the following anagrams:

- Irate [One of the main characters in the book]
- Raft [What Hodgepodge does a lot]
- March [a type of bracelet that Arabella-Rose has]

Try making your own anagrams from everyday words.



About the author and illustrator

Lili Wilkinson is the award-winning author of two picture books – *That Christmas Feeling* and *Clancy the Quokka* and eleven YA novels including *The Boundless Sublime*. Lili established insideadog.com.au and the Inky Awards at the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing, and lives in Melbourne with her husband, son, dog and three chickens.

Dustin Spence is an illustrator with a background in animation and games. He loves creating playful, whimsical and colourful illustrations that explore the depths of his imagination.

In the author's own words

'How do you deal when you get something you've been waiting for finally arrives, and it's not quite what you expected? This is something kids have to deal with all the time – with presents, new pets, new family members. I also got to fulfil a childhood fantasy of mine, which is discovering a secret passage in your house that leads to a really cool secret hideout that only you know about!'

– **Lili Wilkinson**

