



Monster Lunch

Pat Skene

illustrated by Graham Ross

ISBN: 978-1-55143-941-9

AR Quiz # 128004

About the Book

In *Monster Lunch*, we dine with Frankenstein, attend a burgoo and a birthday party, meet a grumpy garden-dude and slurp hot zoop. Each yummy, yucky, messy and hot rhyming poem is followed by an interview with the main character or an assortment of fascinating facts about food.

About the Author

Pat Skene has no strange pets or weird habits; however, she does have eleven rocking chairs and two outdoor swings. Could that be where she gets her wonderful sense of rhythm? Pat was a banker for many years and now enjoys her new life as a writer. She lives with her husband in Cobourg, Ontario.

About the Writing

Lots of kids would eat the same old boring thing day after day if you let them. And eating healthy can be difficult to do in a world filled with convenience food. Pat has always been an advocate for good nutritious food, but it hasn't always been easy to have the children in her life agree. The writing of this book was important to her because she believes children should know about what's in the food they eat—the good, the bad and the ugly.

Years ago, she convinced her daughter to do a school project about processed food. She selected some popular packaged foods and snacks that she and her friends liked to eat. Then she went to the library to explore each ingredient to find out exactly what it was she was eating. Needless to say, she was horrified at what she found and to this day has never eaten any of those particular foods again.

So Pat hopes kids have fun with the stories and poems in this book. And with any luck, maybe some of the food facts will set the stage for more discussion about food—both at home and at school.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections*Prereading Ideas*

Discuss the various terms—junk food, processed food, packaged food and fast food. Explore the meaning of the word *burgoo*. What does it mean when a person is “diabetic”? Discuss allergies and what it means to be allergic. How do you plant a vegetable garden? Make a list of everyone's favorite cake.

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. What was your favorite story or poem and why?
2. How did the author use her imagination to write the story?
3. What are some of the real facts you learned?
4. What did Tess do to spoil her party? What could she have done differently?
5. What did the kids at the burgoo do to save the party?

Suggested Activities

- Take turns reading from the stories in the book. Discuss the various rhyme patterns of each verse in the poems.
- List all the animals in Hot Zoop and their names. Draw a picture of your favorite one.
- Have students take turns telling the class about their favorite recipe, how to make it and what it tastes like.

- Have the class take turns reading verses from Rhyme Time News and recite the original Mother Goose version for comparison.
- Create a true or false quiz from the list of facts. Some examples could be:
 - Shoofly pie has real flies in it. (False, page 6)
 - Oxtail soup has real oxtails in it. (True, page 7)
 - There are seven teaspoons of sugar in one can of cola. (True, page 8)
 - Miss Muffet's tuffet was a tricycle. (False, page 27)
 - Mock turtle soup has real turtles in it. (False, page 36)
 - The radish is the fastest growing vegetable. (True, page 46)
 - Ladybugs and toads help your garden. (True, page 47)
 - A Smash Cake has real smashed cookies in it. (True, page 56)

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

For information on kids' nutrition, junk food, allergies and much more, go to www.kidshealth.org

If you would like to see pictures of a real annual small-town burgoo, go to www.burgoo.org. Check out the size of the burgoo pots.

For more goofy soup jokes, go to www.soupsong.com.

Just for the fun of it—enjoy more rollicking rhymes and class discussions by reading the following books by Dr. Seuss:

Horton Hears a Who

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

The Sneetches

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Rhyme Stones

What a Hippopota-Mess!