

## A Monster Calls – Outside reading book 1<sup>st</sup> quarter

**Directions: \*\*Please type all written portions AND include a word count for each question!**

**JOURNAL ENTRIES: (30 Points; worth 10 points each)**

**You must submit at least 3 journal entries. 150 words minimum**

1. Was there a time in your life when you saw someone as the enemy when what he/she really wanted was to help you?
2. What did you think of the drawings in the book? Did you think they enhanced the reading or do you think they took away from it?
3. Have you ever done something bad and blamed someone else for it? Did you ever own up to your actions?
4. Have you ever been so angry that you want to just break or destroy something? What did you do? What made you feel that way?
5. Have you ever had to deal with a personal loss and not wanted to talk about it? Did you ever talk about it – and did it make you feel better when you did?
6. Have you ever been bullied in school? What was the situation? Did anyone help you?
7. It's possible to feel like Conor does – invisible – in the middle of a crowd of people. Write about a time when you felt invisible.
8. What is the cruelest thing someone could do to you? Why would it be cruel?
9. Has there ever been a time when someone wouldn't tell you the truth, even though the truth was apparent? How did you react to that?

**SHORT ANSWER (30 Points; worth 10 points each)**

***You must complete number 5. Then, choose two other questions to respond to (200 words minimum):***

1. What does the tree mean when he says that Conor “called him” and caused him to “come walking”?
2. The monster that comes is not the monster Conor expected. Why is Conor not afraid of this monster? What is the real monster that Conor fears?
3. Conor and Lily have an interesting relationship, and when the books begins Conor is angry with her. She tries to help him by identifying the bullies to the teacher, but that makes Conor mad. Why does Conor lie about the bullying and get Lily into trouble?
4. What does the “truth” represent to Conor? Why is it the thing he's most afraid of?
5. What does the monster mean when he says that “stories are the wildest things of all...stories bite and chase and hunt”?
6. Why does Conor not want his grandma to visit? What are his expectations of her as grandma?
7. At the end of the first tale the monster says that “sometimes people need to lie to themselves most of all”. Explain what he means?
8. Do you empathize with Conor's reaction to the first story – that he is outraged that the prince killed the maiden? Why?
9. As the monster says, “many things that are true feel like a cheat”. What does the monster mean when he talks about this true story to Conor?

10. A significant moment in the story is when Harry prepares to throw a punch, looking closely into Conor's eyes and then stops. He says "that's what I thought". What did he mean by those words? What does this situation reveal about their relationship and understanding of one another?
11. In your opinion, why does Conor's mom not tell Conor that she is dying? Do you think she is lying?
12. What does the monster mean when he says that "stories are important...they can be more important than anything. If they carry the truth"
13. Towards the end, Harry gives Conor the hardest hit of all. What is it? And why was it so significant?
14. What is the significance of the yew tree? What is the connection of the yew tree and mother and son?
15. Why does the monster say he is a "tree of healing" when he doesn't heal Conor's mom?

**CREATIVE PROJECTS - (40 Points; worth 20 points each; you must complete!)**

1. The second tale talks about the idea of believing in something. What is the value in believing in and having faith in things? Create a podcast that explores why it is important to believe in something. Your podcast should contain the interviews/words of a variety of people, not just your own. (worth two)
2. The monster says, "You write your life with actions" and that it is not important what you think "it is only important what you do". On a poster or canvas, visualize and display the important actions of your life.
3. What is something other people hold dear, but you think it worthless? On a canvas or poster board, or using some other media, make a depiction of this thing and then tear it down, destroy it. Write a paragraph explaining what you destroyed and why.
4. We all wish to be seen – really seen. Is there anyone in your life that sees you – really *sees* you? On a poster board, create two images: what other people see and what that person sees. Write a brief paragraph explanation.
5. Create a children's book using only black and white (pictures and text) that explores your most fearful "truth" in your life. (worth 2)
6. Write about at least three stories you have read in your life that affected you deeply because of their "wildness" and their ability to "bite and chase and hunt".