

English Task Thursday 25th May

It's Behind You!

I don't want to scare you
But just behind you
Is a

No! Don't look!
Just act calmly
As if it wasn't there.

Like I said
Can you hear me if I whisper?
Just behind you
Is a

NO! DON'T LOOK!
Just keep on reading
Don't turn round, believe me
It isn't worth it.

If you could see
What I can see standing there
You'd understand.

It's probably one
Of the harmless sort

Although with that mouth
Not to mention those teeth
And all the blood dripping down its
chin
I wouldn't like to say.

DON'T TURN ROUND!
Listen
It's trying to speak
I think it wants to be friends.

Oh, I see, it doesn't!
Never mind
You'd better leave just in case
I expect you'll escape
If you don't turn round.

Oh what a shame.
I really did think
You'd make it to the door.
Hard luck
I expect it eats all its friends.

David Harmer



It's Behind You! Monster Poems
by Paul Cookson and David Harmer,
MacMillan Children's Books,
2010

1. It's poem time!

Read and ~~shiver at~~ enjoy the monster poem, *It's Behind You!* by David Harmer.

- Would you have been able to stop yourself turning round?
- What would you have done to save the poor person in the poem?

2. Exclamation marks and emphasis

Look at *It's Behind You!*

- Follow the instructions on **Looking at the Poem**, and highlight some of the punctuation.
- Read the poem again, using the exclamation marks and capital letters as a guide to where to really stress lines and/or words.

3. Let's get ready to write

What do you think the monster in the poem would actually have looked like?

- Draw your idea of the monster on *Behind You!*
- Describe your monster using full, accurately punctuated sentences.
- Include two exclamation marks and two capitalised words for emphasis in your writing. *A really ENORMOUS pair of fangs!*

Looking at the Poem...



- What is the punctuation mark called at the end of the title?
- Highlight all the exclamation marks in the poem. How many are there?
- Why are they there?
- Highlight all the words in capital letters. Why has the writer done this with these words?
- Read the poem again. This time, use the exclamation marks and capital letters as a guide to where to really stress lines and/or words.

Ask someone to listen to you read.
Can they hear how good it sounds?