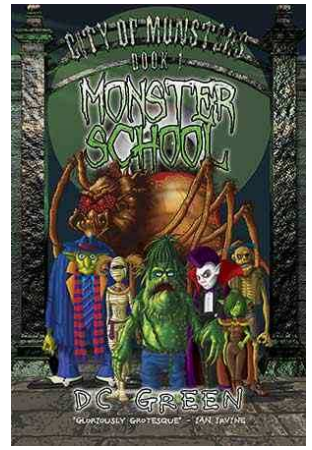


Monster School

City of Monsters Book 1

By DC Green



About the author

Surf journalist DC Green has won multiple big awards, had thousands of articles published in over forty countries and roamed the world's greatest surf spots with the likes of eleven-times world champion, Kelly Slater.

Children's author DC Green has won two very small awards, had five children's novels published in one country and Kelly Slater no longer returns his calls. DC doesn't mind. He loves motivating even the most reluctant of readers and writers. His schools shows, that have toured through every Australian state, have been acclaimed as 'bizarre, egotistical, enthralling, funny and not to be missed,' while DC's humorous fantasy Erasmus James series has been hailed 'the finest written in the history of English literature about mutant chooks and ninja horses'.

For more DC stuff, check out:

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Prior to reading the novel

- Ask students to research monsters such as vampires, mummies, goblins, trolls, ogres, swamp monsters, dragons and zombies. How have these monsters been portrayed in books and movies throughout history? What is the earliest reference you can find to each monster?
- Print various movie posters that include monsters such as vampires, mummies, goblins, trolls, swamp monsters, ogres, dragons and zombies. What year was each movie released?
- Discuss the role of royalty in various cultures. Research the royals 'in-line for the throne' and how the order is decided.
- Discuss climate change and the effects it may be having on our planet.
- Collate ideas on what the world will be like in the future, especially in the year 2627.
- Enlarge the map included at the beginning of the book. Discuss its features and predict what its population might be.

Characters

Thomas Regus/PT

- Why is Thomas imprisoned in Castle Mount?
- Do you think Erica is assigned to Thomas to protect or imprison him?
- Why does Thomas choose to disguise himself as a swamp creature?
- Why does Thomas decide to attend Monstro Central School?
- Who stabs PT in the pool? Why is PT nervous about bleeding after he is stabbed?
- Why do Zorg's teeth nearly break when he bites PT's hand?
- Why does PT offer to face Kalthazari without the Dead Gang?
- In your opinion, who is PT's favourite member of the Dead Gang?
- PT is a very brave human. List examples of his bravery from the text.

Bruce

- Why does Bruce invite PT to sit with the Dead Gang on PT's first day at school?
- Why does Bruce intimidate PT in his 'office'?
- Bruce uses his web-shooting abilities several times in the text. Do you think Bruce's membership of the Dead Gang helps PT to complete his brave acts? Why or why not?
- Bruce leaves his family home as he does not want to be married and then consumed by his children. Do you think Bruce misses his mother?
- What are Bruce's primary expressions?
- How many eyes does Bruce possess?

Scarab

- Explain what makes Scarab so physically strong.
- After he is stabbed, Scarab comes to PT's aid. Why does she help PT even though she knows he's a human who has deceived her and her friends?
- Who is Scarab's father and what is his job?
- Scarab is taken by Jaak, the shape-shifting goblin, and left 'dozing in the Dead Quarter'. Do you think she will be found alive and healthy?
- What two words does PT use when describing Scarab's eyes and her actions?

Zorg

- Explain how Zorg is physically different, being a zombie, to Scarab.
- Zorg has feelings for Scarab. Why do you think Zorg feels so strongly about Scarab?
- Throughout the novel, Zorg wants to eat PT's brain. Why do you think he restrains from doing so?
- Zorg's family have been abducted and he has been forced to spy on the Dead Gang. Which two members does he spy on? Why do you think this has happened?

- What do you think Zorg's main motivation was for sacrificing himself to save his friends at the end of the novel?

Stoker

- Despite being a vampire who drinks human blood, Stoker votes to save PT's life. Why?
- Stoker cannot join the Dead Gang on their quest as he cannot exist in daylight. How do you think Stoker feels about not being able to join his friends?
- Why does Stoker wear a diamond ring?
- How does Stoker identify that the shape-shifting goblin, Jaak, has assumed Scarab's form?

Greta

- On her first day at school, Greta is bullied by the Viethes. Why do they bully her even though they are both goblins?
- Who saves Greta from Friendly Viethe on her first day at Monstro Central School?
- What abilities are forest goblins rumoured to possess?
- Greta announces that she trusts no one in the Dead Gang. Do you believe her?
- Greta is an independent goblin who likes doing things her own way. Discuss.
- Greta agrees to complete the quest Kalthazari gives the Dead Gang for no payment. Why?

Lord Boron

- Lord Boron is the Regent of Monstro City while PT's family is indisposed or absent. Do you think he would like the job of ruling Monstro City permanently?
- Lord Boron chooses to educate PT himself. Why?
- Do you think Lord Boron had anything to do with the disappearance of PT's father and brother, or his mother's condition?
- Why did Lord Boron not want PT to see the accounting books of the royal money?
- Explain the security system Lord Boron has in place for the royal accounts.
- What crimes does PT arrest Lord Boron for?

Kalthazari

- Kalthazari has the highest HP rating of any monster. What is her rating?
- What payment does Kalthazari receive from Mount Castle each week?
- Kalthazari is a true dragon. However, there are many types of 'false' dragons. Name them.
- What level of dragon is Kalthazari? What supernatural skills does she possess?
- Why does Kalthazari level Viethe City?

Gort Klusk

- Name the job of Gort Klusk's father.

- What does Gort do to the dummy human in PE class?
- What creature does Gort ride into battle against the Dead Gang?
- Who kills Gort Klusk?

Erica

- Why do you think Erica doesn't like talking?
- Erica accepts several bribes throughout the novel. Do you think she is an honourable character?
- Early in the book, Erica breaks a mirror which PT jokes may give her seven years of bad luck. Do you think Erica experiences bad luck after the incident?
- Why does Erica press her 'spectre-powered bazooka' into Lars' neck?

Tessa

- What type of creature is Tessa?
- Why was Tessa absent from class on PT's first day?
- When Tessa vomits, who does she expel? Why does this have a profound effect on PT?

Jaak

- Apart from shape-shifting, what other skill does Jaak possess?
- Name the characters that Jaak shape-shifts and impersonates during the text.
- What fraction of Kalthazari is Jaak when he shape-shifts to dragon form?

Themes and discussion points

Inter-species relations

The Dead Gang comprises many different monsters. Even though each monster's species has a different past, beliefs and customs, they manage to get along most of the time.

- How does having a gang made up of different species of monsters make the Dead Gang stronger?
- Bruce confesses that he 'keeps waiting for PT to bust out something evil or wussy or butt-reeky like humes are s'posed to, but he ain't done zilch.' How does holding pre-conceived ideas about someone's race/species change the way you view them as an individual? Do you think pre-conceived ideas based on race/species are helpful or a hindrance?
- Each species of monster has their own king//queen/leader. Do you think it would be better for all species if one monster was in charge of the whole city?
- How are each of the Dead Gang members similar and how are they different? What are each member's strengths and weaknesses?

The quest for wealth

Several characters seek wealth in Monster School. Lord Boron steals from the royal family while Gort-Klusk leads an assault on Kalthazari's loot.

- Kalthazari says 'Wealth alone never solved any of the world's ills'. Do you agree or disagree?
- Does the quest for wealth corrupt any characters in the text?
- In your opinion, who is the 'richest' character in the text?

Climate change

The world has been flooded in Monster School due to humans mistreating the Earth.

- What links can you make between the humans' abuse of the Earth in Monster School with what has occurred in real life?
- Climate change is having various effects on Earth. Research the changes the Earth is currently experiencing.
- Do you believe that climate change is a natural process or something caused by humans?

Writing exercises

- PT finds a copy of DC Greengoblin's Monster Guide (35th edition) in the library. Write a profile of a monster that you think would appear in the Monster Guide.
- Bruce digs old school human abbreviations such as YOLO. Compile a dictionary of current abbreviations such as LOL.
- Erica intercepts a report of a troll gobbling a swamp monster, giving PT the opportunity to disguise himself and attend Monstro Central School. Write what you think appeared in the report.
- PT says 'I didn't care. I could work on my speech-making skills on a less hectic day'. Write a speech for PT to convince the Dead Gang to join him on his quest.
- The clerk in the dragon delivery office speaks in Mayor Viethe's 'father tongue'. Imagine what this language would look like by creating a symbol for each letter of the alphabet. Write a message in your new language.

Connections to the curriculum

Science

- Erica melts wax, rolls them into balls and pokes them into PT's ears to keep away vampire mosquitoes called alkuntanes. Investigate the melting temperature and melting times of different substances such as wax, ice and ice cream.
- Several times Bruce describes other creatures as bipeds. What is the definition of a biped? Investigate other technical terms that are used to describe the features of various species.
- Professor Greengoblin's Monster Guide (35th edition) includes a section on humans. Research the human tribes, cultures and races named in the guide.

Personal Learning

- The Dead Gang are a close group of friends. Interview several of your friends. What do they have in common? How are your friends different?

SOSE

- The humans in Monstro City, and many of the other species, have a monarchy. Research which countries in the world have a monarchy. Does Australia have a royal family?
- PT grabs the constitution from the wall and slams it onto Lord Boron's bedside dresser. Research what is included in the Australian constitution.
- Kalthazari lives in Fire Mountain which comes complete with a lava pit. Print a map of the world and mark all the active volcanoes.

Art

- PT enjoys painting a portrait of a grim-eyed goblin girl in Art. Paint your own version of his subject matter.
- Use various materials to make a mask similar to the one PT wears to make him look like a swamp monster at Monstro Central School.

Technology

- Professor Vemrin mentions several human inventions such as cars, telephones, aeroplanes and the internet. Research these inventions to find when they were invented, who invented them and why they were invented.

Comprehension questions

- How many humans are thought to still exist on Castle Mount?
- In what year did the Great Riot occur at Monstro Central School?
- What does each member of the Dead Gang have for lunch on PT's first day?
- Why does Monstro Central School have so many goblin students?
- Which member of the Dead Gang believes most in 'safety in numbers'?
- Which species has the 'mightiest stomach juices' of any monster?
- What type of creature does PT disguise himself as when attending Monstro Central School?
- Goblins believe that the Great Goblin God created the world in how many days?
- The Hume World Court ruled that humans must pay monsters compensation for their years of discrimination. They then split the lands into quarters. Who was given each quarter?
- Who does PT fight in the pool?
- What creatures invaded Upper Castle Mount and abducted PT's brother and father?
- The Dead Gang discover PT is human after he is stabbed. Who votes to save him and who votes to kill him?
- How does the Dead Gang manage to sneak into Castle Mount?
- What two options did Lord Boron offer the aniwywe?

- How long ago did each race stop paying taxes to the humans?
- How much payment does Greta request to join PT on the quest?
- Can Jaak shape-shift clothes as well as his body?
- What letter do the workers wear on their uniforms in the dragon delivery office?
- What is the name of the massive horse with eight legs and curved ram horns?
- Who did PT think was the scariest monster on his first day at Monstro Central School?
- Where can you score the finest lymph toffees in the Mythic Quarter?
- What is the name of the mountain where Kalthazari lives?
- What is the name of Kalthazari's 'butler'?
- Kalthazari states that one of the Dead Gang possesses 'considerable magical abilities'. Who do you think she is referring to?
- What city did Kalthazari destroy as her act of vengeance for being deceived?
- Jaak cannot speak when he shape-shifts into Kalthazari form. How do the dead Gang give him a voice?
- Explain the new quest that Kalthazari sends the Dead Gang to complete.