



A Read Aloud & Monster Friendship EVENT KIT

*For early childhood or elementary classrooms, libraries,
bookstores, children's parties or play dates. Best for ages 3-7.*

Illustration © Robert Neubecker

The Problem with Not Being Scared of Monsters or Kids:

A Read Aloud & Monster Friendship Event Kit

ABOUT THE KIT

Use this kit in an early childhood or elementary classroom, library, or bookstore or at a child's party or play date. Best for ages 3-7

In these picture books, kids discover the joys (and misunderstandings) of becoming friends with monsters. This kit will give you the materials, preparation tips and suggested dialogue to:

- Introduce the idea that we can all be FOM or Friends of Monsters (and not scared by them).
- Hand out FOM badges that kids can wear around their necks and hang on their bedroom doorknobs to notify all monsters that the kids are ready to be friends.
- Hide paper cut-outs of the three main monsters for kids to find, befriend, and decorate.
- Prompt kids to imagine additional monster friends.



The kit also includes a poster and copy to advertise your event!

Like this event kit? There are more children's literature programming kits at CuriousCityDPW.com.

ABOUT THE BOOKS

The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Monsters

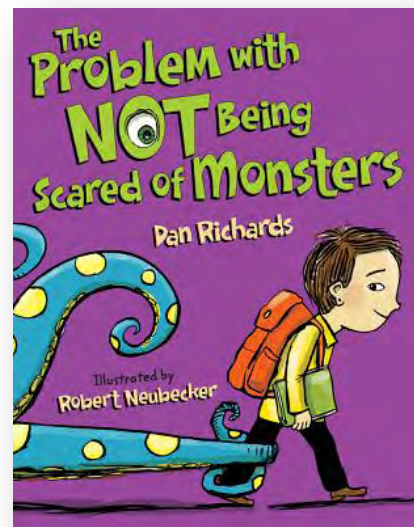
By Dan Richards

Illustrated by Robert Neubecker

Published by Boyds Mill Press

Age Range: 4 - 8 Years

Who knew there was a problem with not being scared of monsters? The hero of this story knows it—all too well. Because he's not scared, the monsters think he's one of them. And now, they're way too friendly. They want to share everything! Which is, of course, a disaster. Good thing there's a terrified little brother to come to the rescue. With understated text and hilarious illustrations, this picture book will have kids laughing away their fears.



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ABOUT THE BOOKS (cont.)

The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Kids

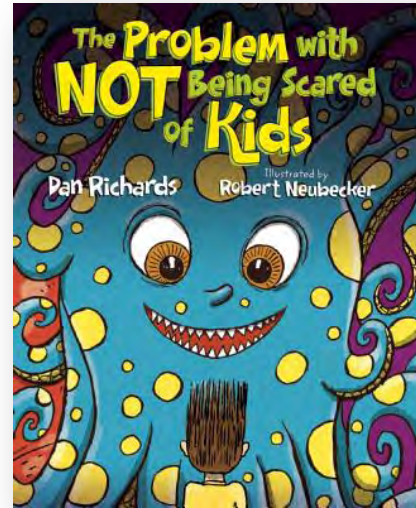
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Some monsters are actually scared of kids. But others are not—and the problem with not being scared of kids is nearly insurmountable. How is a monster to become friends with a kid when being helpful is hazardous, sharing is startling, and claws mixed with crafts are a calamity? Good thing these monsters will not give up, and in the end, their tenacity and generosity prevail. Featuring understated text and a cast of friendly monsters, this is a funny tale about facing fears and making friends.



PRAISE FOR THE BOOKS

"Intrepid monster lovers will delight in reading again and again this list of irksome consequences of being friendly with these creatures. The watercolor and pen cartoons do not miss a mark...Recommend this one to mischievous types of all shapes and sizes..."
—School Library Journal

"A group of not-very-scary monsters tries very hard to make friends with kids, which is exactly as problematic as one might expect...the illustrations deliver the punch lines...there are witty moments...a sweet last page." —Kirkus Reviews

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dan Richards has been interested in monsters since he was old enough to check under his bed. He's been checking ever since and has found many of his closest friends that way. **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Kids** is a companion to **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Monsters**. He lives in Bothell, Washington. Explore ore and meet monsters at DanRichardsBooks.com

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Robert Neubecker is the award-winning illustrator of more than thirty books for children including **Space Boy and His Dog**, the ALA notable book **Wow! City!**, **Winter is for Snow**, and **Linus, the Vegetarian T-Rex**. Robert began his career at *The New York Times* and also draws for *Slate*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and countless other publications and clients. A long time *New Yorker*, he now lives in Park City, Utah, with his family, three cats, dozens of dogs, and a moose.

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PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand program or lesson plan! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or classroom experience.

___ Locate a copy of the picture books **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Kids** and **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Monsters** by Dan Richards and illustrated by Robert Neubecker (Boyd's Mill Press).

___ If you list your events in newsletters and online calendars, here is some text that may help with those listings:

While many of us know what it's like to be scared of monsters, do you know what it's like NOT to be scared by them? We will read all about monsters in the companion picture books, **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Kids** and **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Monsters** by Dan Richards and illustrated by Robert Neubecker (Boyd's Mill Press). Following this funny read aloud, we will search for our own monsters to befriend! All welcome, but best for ages 3-7.

___ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster on page 7, add your date, time, and location, and replicate it to advertise the event. The font on the poster is Zemke Hand ITC TT.

In the books, both the boy and the monsters discover the joys (and misunderstandings) of becoming friends. If the books help kids think of monsters as creatures to befriend and NOT to be scared of, we have won a victory for bedtimes everywhere.

Author Dan Richards has penned the term FOM (Friends of Monsters) and has a whole section of his website (DanRichardsBooks.com) dedicated to FOM and monster profiles. With the following ID badge activity, kids can declare themselves FOM by wearing the badge about their necks. They can also hang it on their bedroom doorknob to help them imagine that monsters that enter their room will be friends, not frights.

___ Print the FOM badges on cardstock (if you can), cut them out, and hole-punch them. Turn them into badges for necks and doorknobs by looping them with string, yarn, or ribbon. You might even laminate them!

Once kids have bought into the idea of being FOM, they may want to meet some monsters. The following activity allows you to provide cut-outs of Squiggly, Furbie, and Hugsby for kids to discover and befriend.

___ Print or copy the *Squiggly*, *Furbie*, *Hugsby* sheets on pages 9-11 on cardstock or regular paper. Make enough so that your kids can each have at least one monster.

___ Cut out Squiggly, Furbie, and Hugsby from the sheets.

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PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES (cont.)

___ Raid your craft closet and see what supplies you have to help kids decorate Squiggly, Furbie, and Hugsby. Crayons are just fine, but consider googly eyes, fake fur, or any other materials that would make a monster into a friend. Lay in whatever extra supplies you need.

One can never have too many monster friends. The following take-away activity encourages kids to create monster friends from their own imagination.

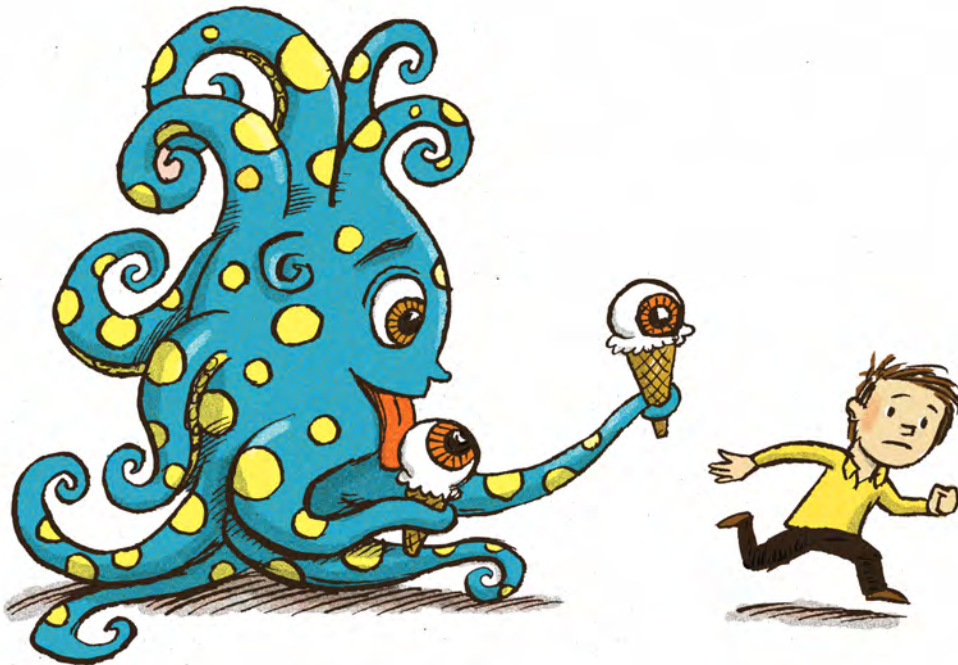
___ Print or copy the *More Monsters! More Friends! FOM!* sheet on page 12 on regular paper. Print enough so that each kid can take one.

SETTING UP THE DAY OF

___ Hide the monster cut-outs around your event space at kid level.

___ Set up your craft table with everything needed to craft a monster cut-out into a friend and with copies of the *More Monsters! More Friends! FOM!* sheet.

___ Place FOM Badges with loop of string near your read-aloud chair.



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THE DAY OF THE EVENT ACTIVITIES

___ Read the picture book **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Kids** and then the picture book **The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Monsters**. (Note: **The Problem...Kids** was published second, but is really a prequel to **The Problem...Monsters**.) Both books are by Dan Richards and illustrated by Robert Neubecker (Boyd's Mill Press).

___ Transition to the activity with dialogue like:

What is the problem with NOT being scared of monsters? What happens to the boy after he's no longer afraid of monsters?

Who was scared of these monsters when we first started the book?

Who wants to be friends with these monsters now?

The author Dan Richards calls kids who want to be friends with monsters FOM. FOM stands for "Friends of Monsters."

Who wants to be an FOM? You get to wear an FOM Badge! [Hand out FOM Badges.]

You can hang this badge on your bedroom doorknob when you get home to let the monsters know that you are their friend.

Now that we are all wearing our FOM badges, let's see if we can go out and make some monster friends. There are monsters hiding in the bookcases...let's see if you can find them.

Right now, they are just black and white monsters. Once you find one, let's bring the monster back to the table and give the monster some color and personality.

Ready? Let's go make friends with monsters! FOM!

___ When kids are ready to pack up, give them the *More Monsters! More Friends! FOM!* sheet to encourage imagination and the creation of more monster friends.

___ Congratulate yourself on being the Ultimate FOM and building friendships between monsters and kids!

Friends of Monsters Story Hour



*Based on the books
The Problem with NOT
Being Scared of Kids
-and-
The Problem with NOT
Being Scared of Monsters*

Illustration © Robert Neubecker

FOM Badges

FOM



What is FOM? DanRichardsBooks.com

FOM



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FOM



What is FOM? DanRichardsBooks.com

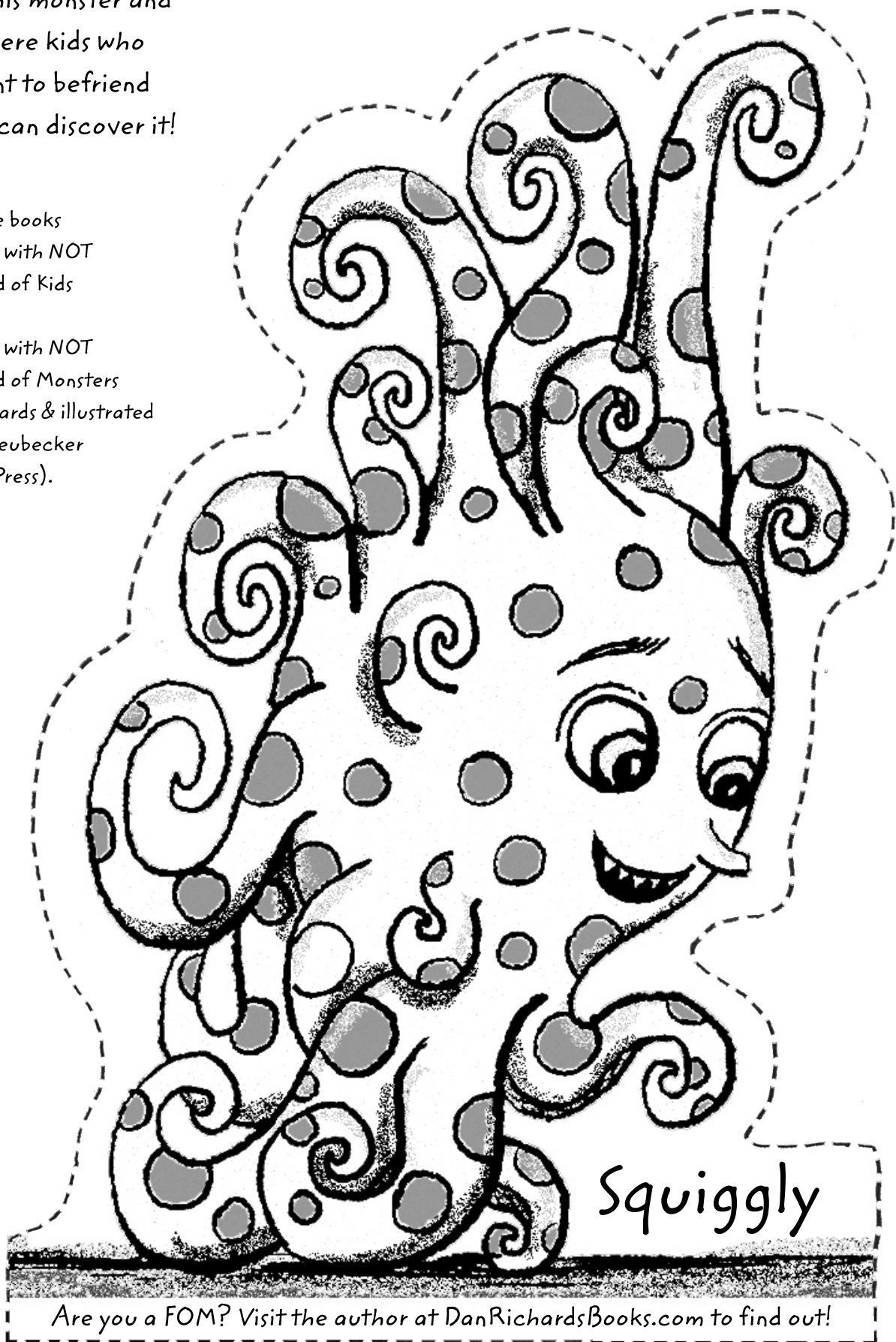
FOM



What is FOM? DanRichardsBooks.com

Cut out this monster and
hide it where kids who
might want to befriend
monsters can discover it!

Based on the books
*The Problem with NOT
Being Scared of Kids*
-and-
*The Problem with NOT
Being Scared of Monsters*
by Dan Richards & illustrated
by Robert Neubecker
(Boyd's Mill Press).



Are you a FOM? Visit the author at DanRichardsBooks.com to find out!

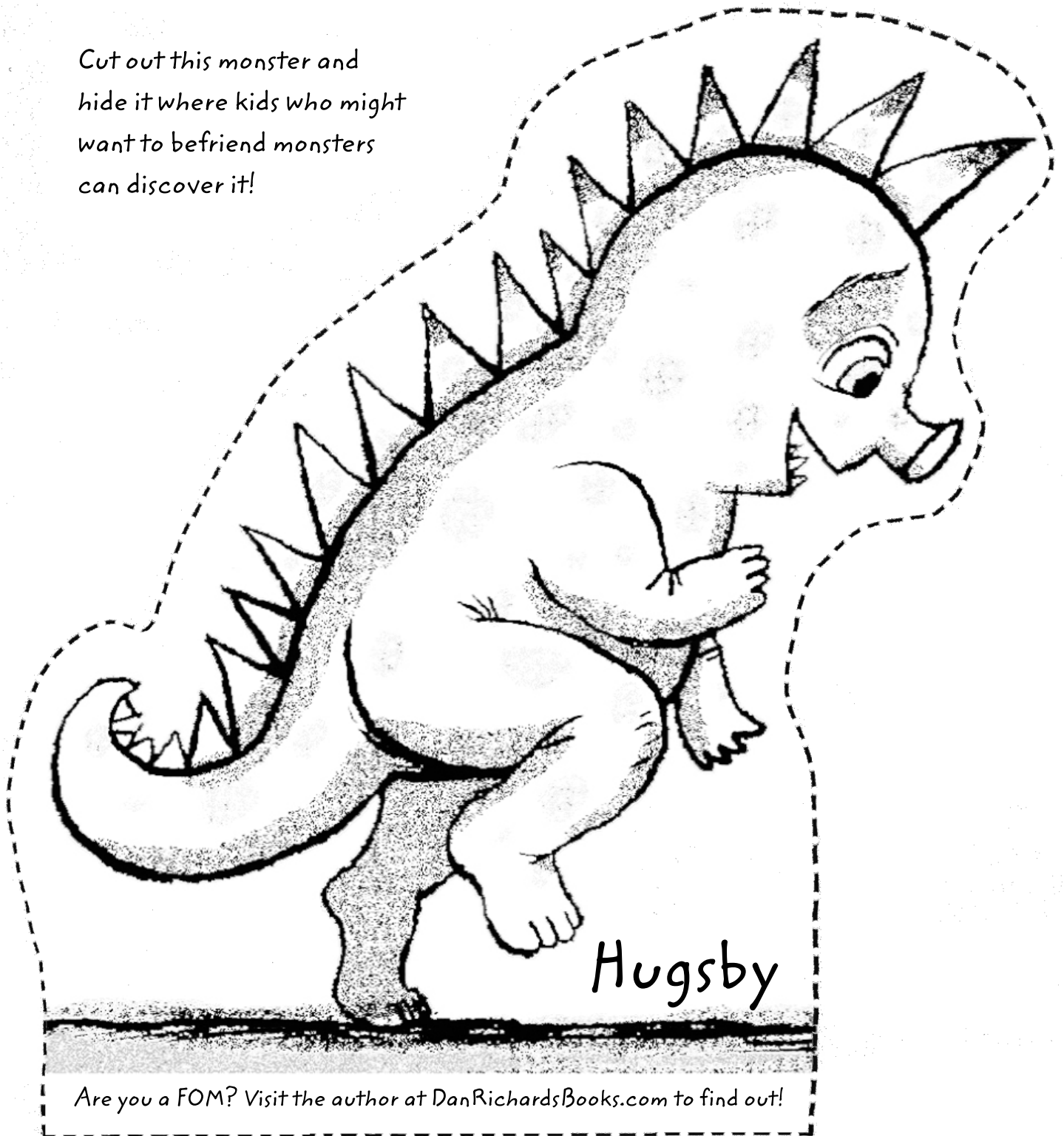
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More Monsters! More Friends! FOM!

The problem with *NOT* being scared of monsters and becoming a FOM (Friends of Monsters) is that you start to want *MORE* monster friends. Can you imagine the most perfect (or imperfect) monster friend?

Name: _____

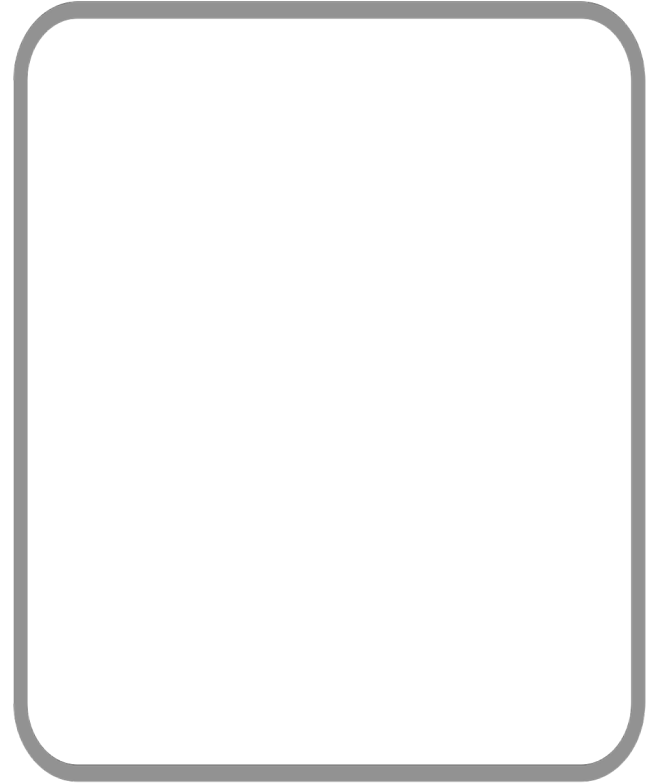
Size: _____

Color: _____

Fav Food: _____

Talent: _____

Tell Us More About Your Monster Friend:



Draw Your Monster!

With an adult's permission, share your monster with author and president of FOM, Dan Richards at DanRichardsBooks.com. Need ideas for monsters? Read the books, *The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Kids* -and- *The Problem with NOT Being Scared of Monsters* by Dan Richards and illustrated by Robert Neubecker (Boyd's Mill Press).