



# #10100 THE TEACHER FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 2003

Grade Level: K-3

9 mins.

## DESCRIPTION

On the first day of school, a young boy fears his teacher will be the awful Mrs. Green. Sure enough, she's a real monster--until he wakes up! The real Mrs. Green is in such contrast to the one in his dream that he forgets to be afraid of school. Animated version of the book by Mike Thaler.



## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: Language Arts--Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
  - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 3.)
  - ♦ Benchmark: Relates stories to personal experiences (e.g., events, characters, conflicts, themes) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 3.)

### Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Knows how to maintain mental and emotional health
  - ♦ Benchmark: Knows how mood changes and strong feelings affect thoughts and behavior, and how they can be managed successfully (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To experience a funny story about overcoming fear of school.
2. To recognize that many common fears are based on exaggeration and rumor.
3. To promote the reading of children's literature.

## VOCABULARY

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|----------------|--------------|
| 1. abracadabra | 8. slither   |
| 2. breathes    | 9. smoke     |
| 3. desk        | 10. spitball |
| 4. fractions   | 11. swallow  |
| 5. glad        | 12. teacher  |
| 6. headache    | 13. wiggle   |
| 7. principal   |              |

## BEFORE SHOWING

1. Discuss the title of the video.
  - a. Define the words *creature* and *lagoon*.
  - b. Explain that there was a famous scary movie titled *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*.
  - c. Guess what the video will be about.
2. Read the book *The Teacher from the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler.

## DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause when the boy closes his eyes at his desk just after he arrives in his classroom. Predict what might happen.

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Identify when the story took place.
2. What had the boy heard about the various teachers at school?
3. Describe what Mrs. Green looked like in the boy's dream.
4. What happened to Freddy? Why? What happened to Eric? Why?
5. What was the homework assignment? How did Mrs. Green explain fractions?
6. Why did Mrs. Green swallow Doris in one gulp?
7. Why did the boy want to get sent to the principal's office?
8. What spelling word did Mrs. Green give Randy? What happened when he couldn't spell the magic words?
9. Why did Mrs. Green shrink Penny's head?
10. What happened when the bell rang?
11. Describe the real Mrs. Green. What was the boy's response when Mrs. Green introduced herself? Why was he so happy?
12. What clues were there that the monster teacher was only imaginary? Why did the boy imagine such a horrible teacher?

### Applications and Activities

1. Compare and contrast the imaginary teacher with the real teacher. Use a graphic organizer such as a Venn diagram.

## C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

2. Recall and share experiences regarding the first day of school. Write a story or poem about those experiences.
3. Dramatize the story. To add roles, invent other frightening teachers for the beginning of the story when the boy is still wondering about who his teacher will be.
4. Write "Monster Math" story problems. Divide into two teams and challenge each other in Monster Math Matches.
5. Create a list of movies with creepy characters. Interview family members for additional titles. Draw pictures of these characters. Explore how these movies are made.
  - a. Discuss how costumes, lighting, and sound effects create scary characters and scenes.
  - b. Investigate special effects used to create the characters. Use examples, such as Halloween costumes, masks, magic tricks, etc.
  - c. Discuss why this kind of movie is popular.
6. Watch a scary movie appropriate for this age group. Compare the character traits to the imaginary teacher in this video.
7. Discuss the meanings of common expressions used in the video. Examples include: "oh, my," "what a bummer," "fold my hands," "call the roll," and "sweet dreams."

### SUMMARY

This program uses exaggeration and humor to help children confront their fears about the first day at school. The narrator is a boy who has heard terrible stories about teachers. He learns to his horror that his teacher will be Mrs. Green, the worst of them all. Sure enough, Mrs. Green turns out to be a green monster with a tail, whose breath burns children to ashes and who teaches fractions by biting a student in half. When he wakes up from this nightmare, the boy is so glad to meet the real Mrs. Green that he forgets to be afraid of school.

### CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [\*Miss Nelson is Back\* #10075](#)
- [\*There's a Nightmare in my Closet\* #2232](#)
- [\*Where the Wild Things Are\* #1933](#)

### World Wide Web



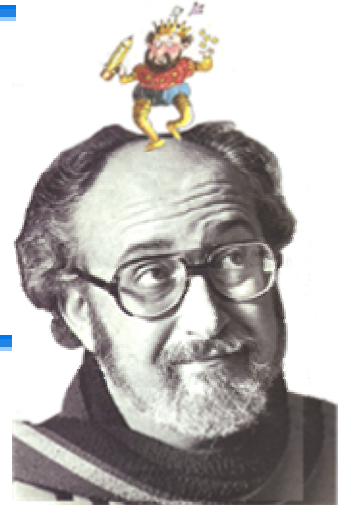
The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

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- **MEET MIKE THALER**

<http://www.mikethaler.com/index.html>

Meet this popular author of *The Teacher from the Black Lagoon* and other "Lagoon" books. This site links you to Mike's biography, calendar, other books written by him, news, and contact information.



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- **HELPING CHILDREN WHO FEAR SCHOOL**

[http://www.helphorizons.com/care/search\\_details.htm?id=408](http://www.helphorizons.com/care/search_details.htm?id=408)

Fear of school is not always something to joke about. Get information to help children with this fear. Follow four steps outlined in this Web site by Marie Hartwell-Walker, Ed. D., expert in childhood phobias.

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- **KIDS HEALTH FOR KIDS**

[http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/school/hate\\_school.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/school/hate_school.html)

A terrific self-help site for kids, created to question and analyze their feelings. Highlighted words link to still more facts and feelings about kids and their experiences in school. This site includes a glossary, kid talk exchange, links to the body and eating healthy, and has an option of Spanish language.

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- **LEARN TO DRAW CARTOONS LESSONS**

<http://www.cartooncritters.com/artlessonlinks.htm>

There are 72 four-step cartoons to practice drawing, beginning with simple shapes and detailed features. Scroll down to view the clear division of cartoon drawing lessons available, including some well-known characters from Nickelodeon. Great fun site for kids.