

3–7 Grade ELA Lesson Plan

Camp Monster by Kate Messner

Grade Levels

3–7

Time

45–60 minutes

Common Core State Standards (CCSS ELA)

- **RL.3–7.1:** Ask and answer questions using evidence from the text.
 - **RL.3–7.2:** Determine the theme or central message.
 - **RL.3–7.3:** Describe how characters respond to challenges and change over time.
 - **RL.3–7.6:** Explain how a character's point of view influences events.
 - **RL.3–7.7:** Analyze how illustrations contribute to the mood, humor, and meaning of the story.
 - **W.3–7.3:** Write narratives using descriptive details, dialogue, and clear event sequences.
 - **SL.3–7.1:** Participate effectively in collaborative discussions.
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Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze Tasha's character development as she learns to lead and work with others.
 - Explore themes of teamwork, acceptance, leadership, problem-solving, and embracing differences.
 - Use evidence from the text and illustrations to support ideas about characters and plot.
 - Examine how mystery and humor work together in a graphic novel.
 - Write an original camp adventure featuring teamwork and creative problem-solving.
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Essential Questions

- What makes a successful team?
 - How can differences make a group stronger?
 - What qualities make an effective leader?
 - How do illustrations help readers understand action, humor, and emotions?
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Materials

- *Camp Monster* by Kate Messner
 - Character & Mystery Graphic Organizer
 - Sticky Notes
 - Chart Paper
 - Writing Journals or Notebook Paper
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Vocabulary

- Leadership
 - Teamwork
 - Acceptance
 - Sabotage
 - Conflict
 - Resolution
 - Perspective
 - Inference
 - Community
 - Graphic Novel
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Before Reading (10 minutes)

Activate Prior Knowledge

Ask students:

- Have you ever attended a camp or joined a new group?
- What challenges can happen when people from different backgrounds work together?
- What makes someone a good leader?
- How can misunderstandings lead to conflict?

Students complete a **Think-Pair-Share**, followed by a class discussion.

During Reading (25 minutes)

Character & Camp Mystery Tracker

Students record important events while reading.

Character	Challenge	Evidence (Words & Pictures)	What They Learn
Tasha			
Goblins			
Ogre			
Werewolf			
Other Campers			

Encourage students to notice:

- Facial expressions
- Body language
- Dialogue
- Teamwork
- Humor
- Suspicious events
- Visual clues
- Camp traditions

Class Discussion

Discuss:

1. Why is Tasha excited about Camp Monster?
2. What problems arise when the different monsters arrive?
3. How do the campers learn to work together?
4. What clues help solve the mystery of the sabotage?
5. What message does the story share about accepting differences?

Mini-Lesson

Teamwork Makes the Difference

Discuss how every camper brings unique strengths.

Create a class chart.

Strong Teams...

- Listen to one another.
- Respect differences.
- Solve problems together.
- Share responsibilities.
- Encourage everyone.

Discuss how the monsters' differences become strengths rather than weaknesses.

Collaborative Activity (10–15 minutes)

Build the Best Camp

Divide students into small groups.

Challenge:

Design a new camp where every camper feels welcome.

Include:

- Camp name
- Activities
- Rules for kindness
- Ways to solve disagreements
- Camp mascot

Groups present their camp to the class.

Writing Activity (20–25 minutes)

Writing Prompt

Imagine you are attending Camp Monster for the very first time. On your first day, something mysterious begins causing problems around camp. Write a story describing the strange events, the new friends you meet, and how everyone works together to solve the mystery. Include descriptive details, dialogue, exciting action, and explain what you learn about teamwork, leadership, and accepting others' differences.

Extension Activities

Grades 3–4

Design a Monster Camper

Create your own monster camper.

Include:

- Name
 - Monster type
 - Special talent
 - Favorite camp activity
 - Personality traits
 - Illustration
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Grades 5–7

Leadership Reflection

Write an essay explaining how Tasha grows as a leader.

Use evidence from the text and illustrations to support your ideas.

Graphic Novel Project

Create a six-panel comic showing:

- Arriving at camp
 - Meeting unusual campers
 - A mysterious problem
 - Teamwork in action
 - Solving the mystery
 - Celebrating together
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Assessment

Formative

- Class discussions
- Character & Mystery Organizer
- Group collaboration
- Reading observations

Summative Writing Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Ideas	Creative and detailed	Clear	Developing	Limited
Organization	Well organized	Mostly organized	Some organization	Difficult to follow
Text Evidence	Strong support	Some support	Minimal support	No evidence
Conventions	Few errors	Some errors	Frequent errors	Many errors

Exit Ticket

Students answer one question:

- What made Tasha a good leader?
- Which camper's unique strengths helped the group the most?
- How did the campers solve the mystery?
- What lesson about teamwork can you use in your own life?

Differentiation

Support

- Partner reading
- Graphic organizers
- Sentence starters
- Teacher-guided discussions
- Visual vocabulary cards
- Read-aloud support, if available

Extension

- Compare *Camp Monster* with another story about teamwork or summer camp, focusing on how characters overcome differences.
- Write a new adventure in which Camp Monster hosts campers from an entirely new group of mythical creatures.

- Research a mythical creature featured in the story and create an informational poster explaining its origins, folklore, and characteristics.
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Cross-Curricular Connections

Science: Compare the fictional monsters in the story with real animals that inspired myths and legends. Discuss adaptations, habitats, and how folklore often grows from observations of nature.

Art: Design a camp map or create a comic panel that uses expressions, movement, and setting details to show action and humor.

Health/SEL: Explore strategies for welcoming new classmates, resolving conflicts respectfully, practicing empathy, and building inclusive communities.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Connection

Students reflect on:

- Leadership
 - Cooperation
 - Empathy
 - Inclusion
 - Problem-solving
 - Respect for differences
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Big Idea

Camp Monster reminds readers that strong communities are built by welcoming others, appreciating different strengths, and working together to solve problems. Tasha's adventure shows that true leadership isn't about having all the answers—it's about listening, encouraging others, and helping everyone feel like they belong.