

## Lesson 2 - Monsters and Aliens



### Objectives

- Choose appropriate presentational features for a calligram and be able to explain why these effects have been chosen.
- Choose words carefully for effective description.
- Explore how everyday objects can create chemical changes.

### Outcomes

- Monster calligrams and descriptions
- Messages written in invisible ink

### Resources

- Activity sheet 3 - Monstrous calligrams
- Activity Sheet 4 - Monstrous mash-up
- Activity sheet 5 - Invisible ink
- Activity sheet 6 - Comic strip template
- Extract 3 - Taken from Tom Gates: Genius Ideas (Mostly)
- Liz Pichon shows the class how to doodle calligrams on the Videos of Liz Pichon playlist at [www.youtube.co.uk/scholasticfilmsuk](http://www.youtube.co.uk/scholasticfilmsuk)

### Lead in

Write up the word 'calligram' on the board and ask children if it reminds them of any other words. Explain that 'calligraphy' is the art of beautiful writing, and a calligram shows the meaning of a word in the way it is written. Agree that the Tom Gates books are full of calligrams. Children can look through copies of the books to find examples, or can look at those provided on activity sheet 3.



### Task 1

Invite children to create their own monstrous calligrams using the adjectives on activity sheet 3. Alternatively, brainstorm your own monster or alien words to use.

### Task 2

Tom likes to draw revolting monsters, often inspired by irritating classmate Marcus Meldrew. Have a go at this 'monstrous mash-up':

- Group the children into threes and give each group a piece of paper.
- The first child should draw the monster's head (or heads!) at the top of the page and then fold over the paper so that just the neck is showing.
- The next child can draw the arms and body, then fold over as before, leaving the final member of the group to draw its legs and feet.
- The paper can then be unfolded to reveal the monster. Can the group come up with a suitable name for their monster?
- The group can then go back and write a monstrous description for each part of the monster's body. Alternatively, cut out the description cards on activity sheet 4. Use these to inspire children to create their own monster pictures or models to match.





### Task 3

Read extract 3 from Tom Gates: Genius Ideas (Mostly) where Tom creates his own monster alien code. Invite children to use Tom's code to write a secret message for a partner to decipher, or to inspire their own monster alien codes.

Tom gets very annoyed that Marcus is always looking at what he is writing or drawing. Follow the instructions on activity sheet 5 and use invisible ink for writing messages (or secret doodles!). Explain that the invisible ink works because the lemon juice is acidic. When it is painted on the paper, it weakens it so this part of the paper turns brown more quickly when exposed to heat.

### Extension

Use the comic strip template on activity sheet 6 to create some comic adventures for the monsters created in Task 2.



### Curriculum links

KS2 Years 3-4, Reading - comprehension

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by:
  - discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
- understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by: identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning (English: Reading comprehension lower and upper KS2)

KS2 Years 5-6, Reading - comprehension

Pupils should be taught to:

- maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by:
  - reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
  - making comparisons within and across books

KS2 Years 5-6, Reading - comprehension

Pupils should be taught to:

- write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:
  - choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task

KS2 Years 3-4, Writing - composition

Pupils should be taught to:

- draft and write by:
  - progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary



### KS2 Years 5-6, Writing - composition

Pupils should be taught to:

- plan their writing by:
- identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own

### KS2 Art

Pupils should be taught:

- to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials.

### KS2 Year 5, Science - Properties and changes to materials

Pupils should be taught to:

- explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning.



# Activity sheet 3: Monstrous calligrams

The Tom Gates books are full of calligrams. Here are some examples:

TWYGS?

RELAXING

GIANT

rumbLing

Now choose one of the words below and have a go at creating your own monstrous calligram.

monstrous

terrifying

slimy

alien

hairy

devilish

toothy

scaly



# Activity sheet 4:

## Monstrous mash-up

Cut out the description cards below and use these to inspire children to create their own monster pictures or models to match.



THE GREEN SLIME MONSTER drops revolting, shiny gloops everywhere he goes. He has four fearful heads, each one with its own bulging eye.

THE LONG-NECKED ZEBROID is stripy and has a very long neck that can be tied in knots. She has three legs with hooves.

THE SPRINGY ZOOM MONSTER has two springs instead of legs, and bounces everywhere he goes. He also has three purple fangs.

THE FIZZY-FUZZER is covered by pink and purple fluff. When he opens his small mouth, bright green bubbles come out.

THE SCALY SLOOP MONSTER has two heads, each with three long antennae. His skin is scaly and rainbow coloured. He likes eating bananas.

THE DODECA-SUCKER is a fearful monster with twelve tentacles. Each one has a powerful sucker on the end, allowing the monster to climb any surface.

THE GIANT SQUIDGE changes shape to fit in any space like an enormous blob of plasticine. He has three triangular eyes and long eyelashes.

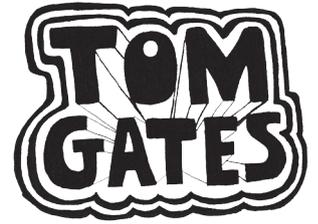
THE THREE-TALONED DEMON has three feet at the end of each leg, each with three long talons. He also has a spiky tail.

THE SHARKY STINGER has a large dorsal fin like a shark and lots of spiky teeth. She runs very fast and shoots out poisonous darts from her tail.

THE SMELLY SOCK MONSTER can be sniffed out long before she is seen. She has five feet, each covered in a brightly coloured, extremely whiffy sock.



# Activity Sheet 5: Invisible ink



Create your own letters using invisible ink using the method below.

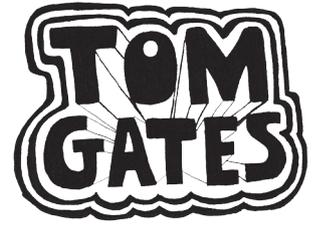
You will need:

- lemons cut in half
- lemon juicer
- cotton buds

What to do:

- Squeeze as much juice as you can out of the lemons.
- Dip a cotton bud in the lemon juice, and use it to write an invisible message in the box below.
- Wait for the lemon juice writing to dry completely, then swap your sheet with a classmate.
- Put the papers by a fan heater (or use a hairdryer on a hot setting) and wait for the messages to be revealed.
- What does your friend's message say?



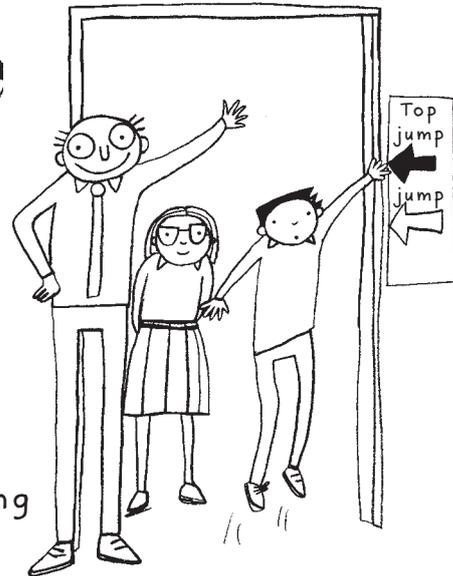


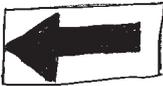
# Activity sheet 6: Comic Strip Template

Create your very own comic strip starring your monsters!

A large grid of five empty rectangular boxes for drawing a comic strip. The boxes are arranged in two rows: the top row has two boxes of equal size, and the bottom row has three boxes. The boxes on the left side of the bottom row are smaller than the one on the right. All boxes are empty and have a simple black border.

## Extract 3: Tom Gates Genius Ideas (Mostly)



Back in class,  
Mr Fullerman has found  
yet another way of making  
us do EXTRA practice for  
SPORTS DAY. We all have to jump up  
and touch the arrow before he lets us come  
into class. 

Then he explains to the class what  
we'll be doing today.

**First of all, you need to write the WHOLE  
alphabet out, and underneath each letter,  
make up your own symbols. Remember  
when we looked at the Egyptian  
hieroglyphics?**

