

Monsters vs Aliens

Study Notes



Directed by: Rob Letterman & Conrad Vernon

Certificate: PG

Running time: 94 mins

Synopsis

When a meteor full of outer space gunk unexpectedly clobbers California girl Susan Murphy, she mysteriously grows to 49feet,11inches tall and is instantly labelled a 'monster' named Ginormica. The military jumps into action and she is captured and held in a secret government compound. The world learns that the military has been quietly rounding up other monsters over the years. This ragtag group consists of the brilliant but insect-headed Dr Cockroach, PhD; the macho half-ape, half-fish The Missing Link; the gelatinous and indestructible BOB; and the 350-foot grub called Insectosarus. Their confinement time is cut short however, when a mysterious alien robot lands on Earth and begins storming the country.

As a last resort, under the guidance of General W R Monger (on a desperate order from the President), the motley crew of monsters is called into action to combat the aliens and save the world from imminent destruction.

Before seeing the film

Key questions

1. Monsters vs Aliens is an animated film. It's the type of film that would have been very hard (and expensive!) to make as a live-action movie. Animation allows the filmmakers to let their imagination run wild – literally anything is possible. Draw your own poster for the film with a monster and alien from your imagination.
2. The 'monsters' in the film all have something unique about them that set them apart from 'normal' people. Ginormica, for example, is so called because she's a giant! What is unique about you? Draw yourself as a character from the film. Make sure the picture shows your unique character trait.
3. 'Vs' stands for 'versus'. It means 'against'. The monsters are asked to fight against the aliens to save planet earth. In sport, you have two teams 'versus' each other – for example Manchester United vs Liverpool FC. In all sports, you need rules so that the game is played and won fairly. Devise some rules of combat for the monsters and the aliens of the film. For example, your first rule could be that each team must toss a coin to see who goes first!
4. Monsters vs Aliens can be seen in 3D. This stands for 3-dimensional. It means that when you watch the film, you wear special glasses and the pictures literally come out of the screen at you. Use the internet to find out how this is possible. Look up 'IMAX®' or '3D cinema'.
5. Why do you think monsters and alien films are so popular? What is it about them that makes people want to go and see a film about them?

After seeing the film

Task 1

Monsters vs Aliens is full of funny characters. The monsters are certainly a mixed bunch! Which is your favourite? Create a character profile about your favourite that includes the following information:

- name
- appearance
- voice (loud, soft, American, English)
- characteristics
- personality
- unique trait

Task 2

One of the most exciting scenes in the film is when Ginormica uses cars as roller skates and skates around the town. Talk about this scene with a friend. Where was she? How did she manage to get shoes on her feet? Where did she go when she was 'skating'? Who was she chasing /running away from?

Choose 5 key (important) images from this sequence, draw them and put them in a different order. What happens to the story when you change the order of the images around?