Penguin Readers

There are monsters in the forest. You must not go there! But Little Billy does not listen to his mother, and he goes to the dark forest. Little Billy is frightened, but then he meets the Minpins. Can they stop the hungry monster?

Penguin Readers is a series of popular classics, exciting contemporary fiction and thought-provoking non-fiction, written for learners of English as a foreign language. The series is aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and includes language activities that help develop key skills.

ROALD DAHL

A Penguin Readers series of your favourite Roald Dahl characters and stories!

	CEFR level	Story word count	Headwords
1	A1	1,000–2,000	550
2	A1+	3,000–4,000	700
3	A2	5,000–7,000	1,000
4	A2+	8,000–10,000	1,200

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1 Billy and the Minpins

ROALD DAHL

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BILLY AND THE MINPINS

Illustrated by Quentin Blake

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For Review Only

LEVEL

1

This book has been simplified for English Language Learners
by Kirsty Loehr
Series Editor: Madeleine Burgess

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ABOUT ROALD DAHL AND QUENTIN BLAKE

Roald Dahl was a children's writer, and many of his stories are very famous across the world. Do you know any Roald Dahl books?

Quentin Blake drew pictures for Roald Dahl's stories. Do you like the pictures in this book? Which is your favourite picture?

About this story

In this book, Little Billy lives at home with his mother. There is a big forest near Little Billy's house. But Little Billy must not go to the forest. "There are monsters in there," his mother says.

People love reading about monsters, and there are monsters in lots of stories. Monsters can be clever or silly. They can be big or small. They can be nice, but usually they are very bad!

MEET . . .

Little Billy

Little Billy's mother

Don Mini

The Minpins

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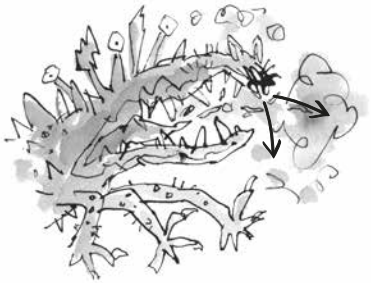
NEW WORDS

a forest (n.)

a monster (n.)



blow ***(blew)*** (v.)

smoke (n.)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Answer the questions.

1 Look at the picture on page 12.
Is Little Billy happy?

2 Look at the picture on page 13.
What is Little Billy's mother talking about?

3 Look at the pictures on page 17.
What is Little Billy doing?

Now let's read Chapter 1!

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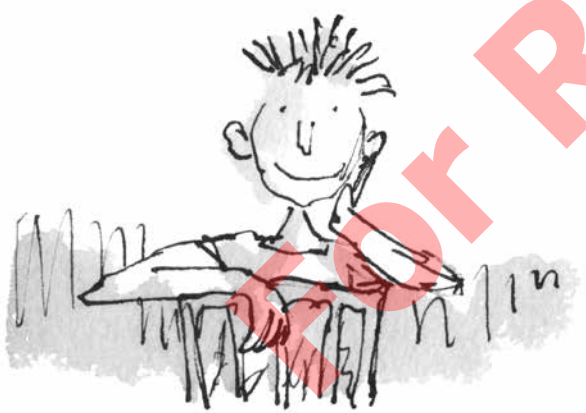
CHAPTER 1
Little Billy

Little Billy lived in a house next to a big dark **forest**. He loved looking at the forest from his window.

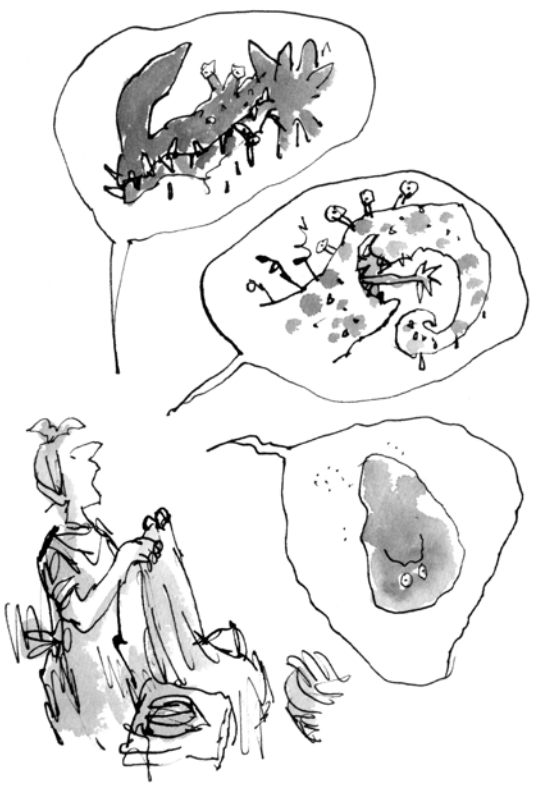
But Little Billy never went there.



"You must not go to the forest," his mother often said. "Many people go there, but they don't come back."

"Why?" Little Billy asked.

"There are **monsters** in the forest," she said. "And they eat people!"



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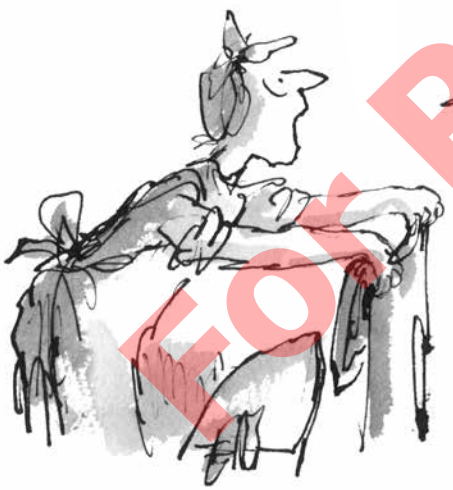
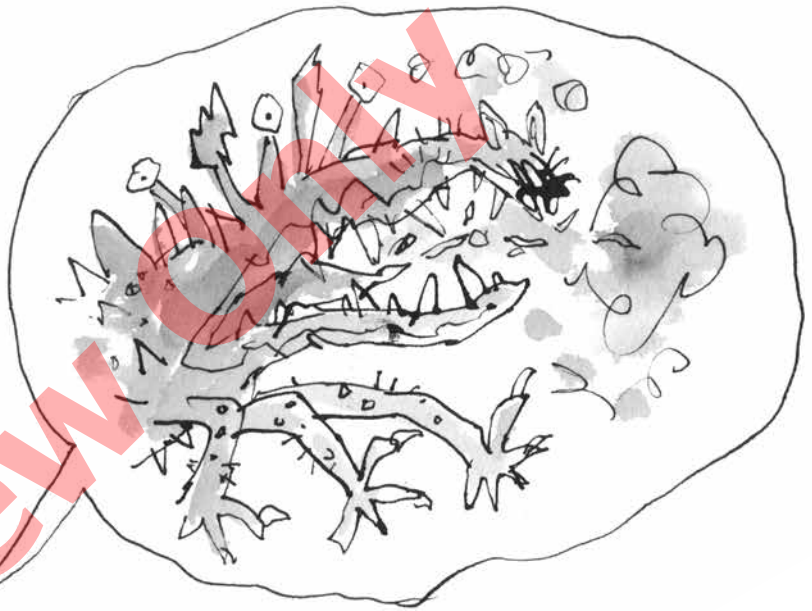
"There aren't any monsters!" Little Billy said.

"There are *lots* of monsters!" his mother said. "One of them is very, very bad. It **blows** hot **smoke** from its nose!"

"Does that monster eat people?" Little Billy asked.

"Yes, of course," his mother said. "The forest isn't a good place. Please don't go there."





Billy listened to his mother. *She is wrong*, he thought. *There are no monsters in the forest.*

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One afternoon, Little Billy was in the living room. Little Billy's mother was in the kitchen.

"Little Billy, what are you doing in there?" his mother asked.

"I'm being good, Mother," Little Billy said.

But Little Billy was not always good at being good. He thought about the forest.

I must stay here, Little Billy thought. *But what is in the forest? I have to know!*

The next second, Little Billy opened the window. Then he ran across the garden. *I'm doing it!* he thought. *I'm going to the forest!*

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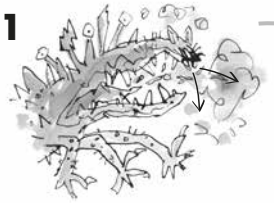
Chapter 1

WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Match the pictures to the words.

1 

2

3

4

a forest

blow

smoke

a monster

Match the two parts of the sentences.

1 Little Billy lives . . . d

2 There are monsters . . . _____

3 One monster blows smoke . . . _____

4 Little Billy's mother is . . . _____

5 Little Billy runs . . . _____

a . . . in the forest.

b . . . across the garden.

c . . . in the kitchen.

d . . . in a house next to a forest.

e . . . from its nose.

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