



Have You Seen My Monster?

Steve Light

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In a follow-up to Steve Light's highly praised *Have You Seen My Dragon?*, the county fair is filled with shapes—and somewhere among them a monster is waiting to be found.

A little girl gallivants through a county fair, searching for her furry friend. Readers will surely spot the friendly monster as well as twenty shapes, identified here by their proper names—trapezoids, ellipses, kites, and more—hidden among iconic fair attractions from the fun house to the Ferris wheel. Maybe the monster is judging the pies? Or perhaps he's at the monster-truck rally? Youngsters will be so mesmerized by Steve Light's masterful pen-and-ink illustrations, decorated with vivid splashes of color, they won't even realize they've learned how to spot a nonagon while looking for a monster.

Have You Seen My Monster? Details

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Author : Steve Light

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From Reader Review Have You Seen My Monster? for online ebook

Lynn says

Steve Light takes the concept of his first book and gives it a very interesting spin. It is still fun to find the monster in the wonderfully busy fair scenes but he adds an entertaining explanation of shapes to the mix. Not just your ordinary shapes either! Quatrafoils and heptagons and more add to the finding fun.

Liz says

This was an adorable shape book. Each spread had a different shape - 20 in all - including interesting ones such as quatrefoil, trapezium, ellipse, curvilinear triangle, nonagon, as well as all the "simple" shapes like circle, square, and rectangle. What is more, the book had adorable illustrations, fun scenes on each page, and the challenge to find the monster, who was sometimes in plain sight and sometimes difficult to spot. Lovely book for toddlers to elementary schoolers.

Samantha says

Part seek and find book, part exploration of shapes (at the county fair no less!) The variety of shapes included are excellent! I can't think of another concept book that includes nonagons and quatrefoils alongside rectangles and circles. Ink illustrations are heavily detailed and contain spot coloration giving the spreads a seek and find challenge and the shapes a special spotlight.

Highly recommended read aloud for PreK-2+.

Jennifer says

This one is just trying too hard. The pictures are fun, but what's up with the shapes? Are we seriously trying to teach the target age group (preK) shapes like nonagons, heptagons, and curvilinear triangles? Wow. While the illustrations are incredibly detailed, in reality they are too detailed for this to be useful as a group read aloud. There's just not enough story to make up for the overdone illustrations. Now, if you have a kid who's really into monsters, fairs, or random shapes, this would make a fun lap read "look and find."

JR says

Beautiful illustrations, bright color pops from each page, these are unique in format. So its in Heavy rotation! (We own it)

This book focuses on shapes, and I found myself trying to memorize some these shapes! There were several I

didn't remember or never knew of!

I'm surprised about the low ratings for this book, perhaps some parents couldn't remember shapes or know them, and felt a little dumb! Ha!

Cheryl says

Two stars is a stretch, and I got to it by deciding that the monster is an imaginary friend. How it interacts with other fairgoers then, I don't know, but after loving "Have You Seen My Dragon?" I'm desperate to find a redeeming value in this mess. I would not use it to teach or reinforce shapes, or colors, or even the sights of a fair (a bearded lady? seriously?). C'mon, Steve, you can do better I'm sure....

Richie Partington says

Richie's Picks: HAVE YOU SEEN MY MONSTER? by Steve Light, Candlewick, May 2015, 48p., ISBN: 978-0-7636-7513-4

"In Euclidean geometry, a kite is a quadrilateral whose four sides can be grouped into two pairs of equal-length sides that are adjacent to each other. In contrast, a parallelogram also has two pairs of equal-length sides, but they are opposite each other rather than adjacent.

-- from the Wikipedia article "Kite (geometry)"

"Save your neck or save your brother

Looks like it's one or the other

Oh, you don't know the shape I'm in"

How many books have you read that introduce little kids to circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles? Some are entertaining and some are not so entertaining, but there sure are a lot of them.

Now how many books have you read that introduce little kids to heptagons, quatrefoils, curvilinear triangles, and nonagons?

Set as a romp through a county fair by a young girl and her loveable monster on the loose, HAVE YOU SEEN MY MONSTER? is a perfect book for kids who love to discover and catalogue the names of things, such as those pre-Ks and early elementary students who learn the names and habits of every dinosaur that ever existed.

HAVE YOU SEEN MY MONSTER? is illustrated in pen and ink. In each spread, the illustrations are black and white except for the highlighted shape. There's a hide-and-seek aspect to the story, as the girl seeks the monster, and the monster blends in with the background. In one spread it poses as a carousel horse. In another, it sits still among the stuffed animal prizes.

Containing valuable geometry lessons, and some great vocabulary words to remember for Scrabble or Words With Friends, HAVE YOU SEEN MY MONSTER? is a very fun trip to the county fair.

Richie Partington, MLIS

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Moderator http://groups.yahoo.com/group/middle_...

Laura Harrison says

What a great treat. I loved Light's Have You Seen My Dragon, but I think I love Have You Seen My Monster even more. The story takes place at a fair. Mr. Light covers every aspect of a fair/amusement park that you can imagine. Sumptuous, detailed, exuberant illustrations. Destined to be an absolute hit with children and storytime.

Beth says

I didn't love this one as much as Have You Seen My Dragon. The shapes theme didn't feel as natural a fit for the story as counting did in Have You Seen My Dragon. Apart from the somewhat forced insertion of shapes into the story, I did love the illustrations, which are both bold (in line, not in color) and whimsical.

Michael Fitzgerald says

No connection whatsoever with the dumb story and the shapes. Is this book supposed to teach shapes? Do kids who are learning circle and square need to be confronted with "curvilinear triangle" and "trapezium" at the same time?

The drawings clearly show artistic talent, but that's good enough for producing a poster, not a story book.

Things like The Wing on a Flea: A Book about Shapes or The Dot and the Line: A Romance in Lower Mathematics might not have the pure doodle quotient that this one has, but they are much better shape books.

Or is this book supposed to be teaching about the fair? Again, there are better books for that, too.

Sarah Easton Miller says

A fun introduction to shapes, especially the less common ones such as quatrefoil and nonagon. Could read this book three times- once to find the hidden monster on every page, once for a shape study, and once just to hear the story.

Kristine Hansen says

There are shapes in this book that I never knew there were names for!

I really really love the many-faceted approach to this book. There are shapes - and not just the usual ones. The child can hunt them out on the page after trying the name out loud with the reader which makes awesome math sense. Then you can also hunt for the monster on the page, the child on the page, and just enjoy the entire county fair aspect to the book. Whew, so much in what should be just a simple shape book!

Except it's not a simple shape book. Maybe there isn't much story, but there is enough to carry the purpose of the book. I really wish I'd had this book when my kids were young just so I could have trained them to say all those cool words at a young age.

What a great book!

Aylea says

When the little girl goes to look for her monster at the fair, she asks the reader to help her find her friend. She goes searching around all the circus events: pie-eating, the bearded lady show, the egg display, the livestock, the hay rides, the monster trucks, and other things. After going through the whole circus, she finally finds her monster and they go home together.

Each page has a shape that is featured and is the only aspect of the page that is in color. Children can look for the shape, from common ones like rectangles to uncommon ones like quatrefoils, as well as finding both the monster and the girl in the black and white illustrations. These aspects help make it an active book to read with a child, and the unusual and normal shapes help make it a learning experience (although the child has to be old enough to not get overwhelmed with the many different kinds of shapes). This will be a fun book for children who enjoy both monsters and shapes.

Robin says

A strange follow up to what was a wonderful original. Hrm.

Angelina says

Didn't work for me. No real story and the shapes are unnecessarily hard.
