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There are monsters everywhere

Marsha D. Broadway

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Mayer, Mercer. *There Are Monsters Everywhere*. Illustrated by Mercer Meyer. Dial, 2005. ISBN 0803706219. \$15.99. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Monsters--Juvenile fiction; Fear--Juvenile fiction; Karate--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

A young boy is certain that monsters inhabit his home. They are in the basement, outside by the garbage cans, in the bathroom and in his bedroom. To conquer these beasts, the boy tells his parents he wants to take a karate class. They agree. The boy uses his scary karate moves and yells to turn the tables on the monsters. He decides to get a black belt and maybe become a monster hunter when he is grown.

In his characteristic style and humor, Mayer addresses, with empathy, another childhood fear by creating benign monsters and a character who triumphs over his fear. Illustrations are rendered in cool tones of gouache. Easy-to-read facial expressions of the chunky conquering hero move from apprehension to fear to determination to confidence. The spotted, striped, and scaly monsters, who wear braces, band-aids, earrings, and eyeglass, are more comical than scary. This book will not gain the popularity of *There Is a Nightmare in My Closet* or the *Little Critter*® books, but it is a good choice to quell fears and build confidence for the "under eight" set.