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The Loch Mess Monster

Aylea Stephens

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Title: The Loch Mess Monster
Author: Helen Lester
Illustrator: Lynn M. Munsinger
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers
Publication Year: 2014
ISBN: 9780544099906
Number of Pages: 32
Interest Level: Preschool
Rating: Excellent

In Scotland, there is a legend of a monster that lives at the bottom of a lake, but it turns out that the legend is false: there are actually three monsters. Angus, the little monster, has always been taught the Five Basic Monster Rules, but even though he is well-behaved, he makes huge messes and doesn’t pay attention to rule number two: always pick up after yourself. Until he does, his parents tell him that he needs to stay in his room so he can keep his mess in there. His pile of stuff on the bed keeps growing and growing until he forgets the number 1 rule: nevereverEVER go up to the surface of the loch. The goats who have been waiting to see the Loch Ness Monster find out that it’s a Loch MESS monster instead! Finally Angus decides to clean up his mess.

Readers unfamiliar with Scotland will have to use the glossary of Scottish words at the beginning of book, but these words help make the book feel delightfully Scottish in ways other than just having the Loch Ness Monster as the focus of the book. It is an amusing lesson book to teach young readers to keep clean and to have good manners and can also help introduce children to legends of the Loch Ness monster and a little bit about Scotland. Young children will enjoy the story and the wonderful illustrations, particularly if they are fans of books about monsters.