

SARAH HAWKINS

THE MONSTER BALL



# THE MONSTER BALL

Written exclusively for McDonald's by

**Sarah Hawkins**

Illustrated by SEAN McLEOD

# National Literacy Trust

**Change your story**

## Reading Tips

**Top tips to help families discover the magic of reading.**

The National Literacy Trust is a charity that changes life stories through literacy. We want to get more families reading. It's fun, and children who read in their own time do better at school and later in life. When families read stories together, the possibilities are endless.

**Here are some top tips from the National Literacy Trust to help families bring stories to life at home:**

- Make story time fun by using different voices for characters and acting out your favourite parts.
- Children love to make up their own stories so stop at an exciting part of a book and ask them to imagine what happens next.
- Pick books about things your child is interested in. Whether they love dinosaurs, ballet or football, there's a story for every child to enjoy.
- Stories come in all shapes and sizes, from books and comics to magazines and newspapers. All reading counts, so get exploring.
- Why not give audiobooks and storytelling-videos a try? They can be really fun and are also great for children who aren't keen on reading.
- Make time to share stories as a family as often as you can. You could try reading a bedtime story together or listening to an audiobook on a car journey.

**The National Literacy Trust is proud to partner with McDonald's to help families discover the magic of reading together.**

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**Did you know that  
monsters like dancing?  
Well, they do!**



**In fact, every year there's a secret  
Monster Ball, where werewolves waltz  
and witches break-dance!**

**No humans have ever been there...  
until now. Because six friends are about  
to go on an amazing, magical,  
MONSTROUS ADVENTURE!**

**And it starts at a strange old house...**



**“This house is super spooky!” Bev said.**

**“Are you scared?” Vin teased.**

**“Shh, you two, it’s nice that we’ve  
been invited to a party,” said Dad.**

**“And Vin’s friends will be there too.”**

**“Bev’s too little to play with us,” Vin said.**

**“She’s just a baby.”**

**“AM NOT!” Bev exclaimed.**

**“Vin, look after your sister,” Dad said  
as they went inside.**



**“Don’t worry, Dad, I’ll look after Vin.”**

**Bev said.**





**All the other kids were upstairs in a dusty playroom filled with old toys.**

**The floorboards creaked creepily as Bev and Vin went in. “Where is everyone?” Bev whispered.**



**Wilbeth, Cathy, Sergio and Franklin leapt out from behind an old wooden chest.**

**"RAAAAAH!!"**



**"ARGH!"** Vin yelled out loud, but  
Bev just laughed.

**“Cool costumes!” Vin said.**

**Cathy was wearing a pair of cat ears and a long tail. Franklin had a Frankenstein mask, and Sergio was dressed like a skeleton.**

**Bev stared at Wilbeth’s witch’s hat. It was made of purple velvet and had a buckle on the front. It looked really real!**

**“They were in there,” Cathy said, pointing to the chest. Vin pulled out a red-and-black vampire cloak. “Cool!” he grinned, swirling it happily.**



**Bev tiptoed over to the chest and peered inside. *Maybe I can be a princess, or a ninja!* she thought. But there was only one costume left – a pair of bat wings.**



**As she took them out, she noticed something else sparkling at the very bottom of the chest – a golden card.**

**“Look!” she said, holding up the card.**



**Vin rolled his eyes. “Just put the bat costume on, Bev. Don’t make a fuss!”**

**“I’M NOT!” Bev said. She only wanted to show him the card. He never listened to her, just because she was younger than him.**

As soon as Bev put the bat wings on,  
something amazing happened.

Something... magical!

A strange wind swirled around  
the room, surrounding them  
with shimmering sparkles.

Bev blinked. When she  
opened her eyes, they weren't  
in the dusty playroom anymore,  
and everyone had changed...  
into **MONSTERS!**

“Where are we?” Vin asked.  
“**WHAT** are we?” Wilbeth said.







**They'd all changed into the monsters from their costumes!**

**“Cathy, you're a cat!”  
Franklin gasped.**



**Wilbeth let out a  
spark of magic.  
“I'm a real witch!”**



**Bev flapped her wings.  
She was a bat! She flew  
into the air and did a loop.  
“This is so cool!”**



**Franklin was a Frankenstein monster  
and Vin was a vampire.**



**Sergio giggled as slime  
came out from his fingers.**



**Cathy peered through  
a doorway and gasped.**

**The others gathered round and stared  
in amazement. Inside was a huge hall...**

**FULL OF MONSTERS!**



**In one corner was a monster band,  
with a werewolf howling a song.  
A pair of yetis tangoed by, treading**



**on each other's big feet. There was even a dragon flying overhead, his scales glowing as he breathed fire!**

**Everywhere they looked, monsters of all kinds were dancing and having fun. “Let’s explore,” Vin grinned.**

**“Wait, the card!” Bev said, but the others were already gone. Bev sighed, but she couldn’t be cross – the monster ball was too much fun!**



**While Cathy chatted to a mermaid in a bathtub, Bev danced with a unicorn.**



**Vin and Franklin got into a break-dance battle with a zombie, and Wilbeth and Sergio started tap-dancing with an enormous eight-legged spider.**

**IT WAS SO MUCH FUN!**

**As the werewolf singer howled another song, everyone moved to the dance-floor to party – MONSTER STYLE!**



**They had just joined a ghostly conga line when the clock struck eleven.**

**“Oh no!” Bev gasped, as she suddenly remembered the golden card.**





“We have to get home before  
midnight, or we’ll get **STUCK HERE!**”  
she told the others.

**“What do you mean?” Vin asked.**

**“The card!” Bev gave it to him and  
Vin read it out loud:**



**“Why didn't you tell us before!”  
Franklin sniffled.**

**“I TRIED!” Bev said.**

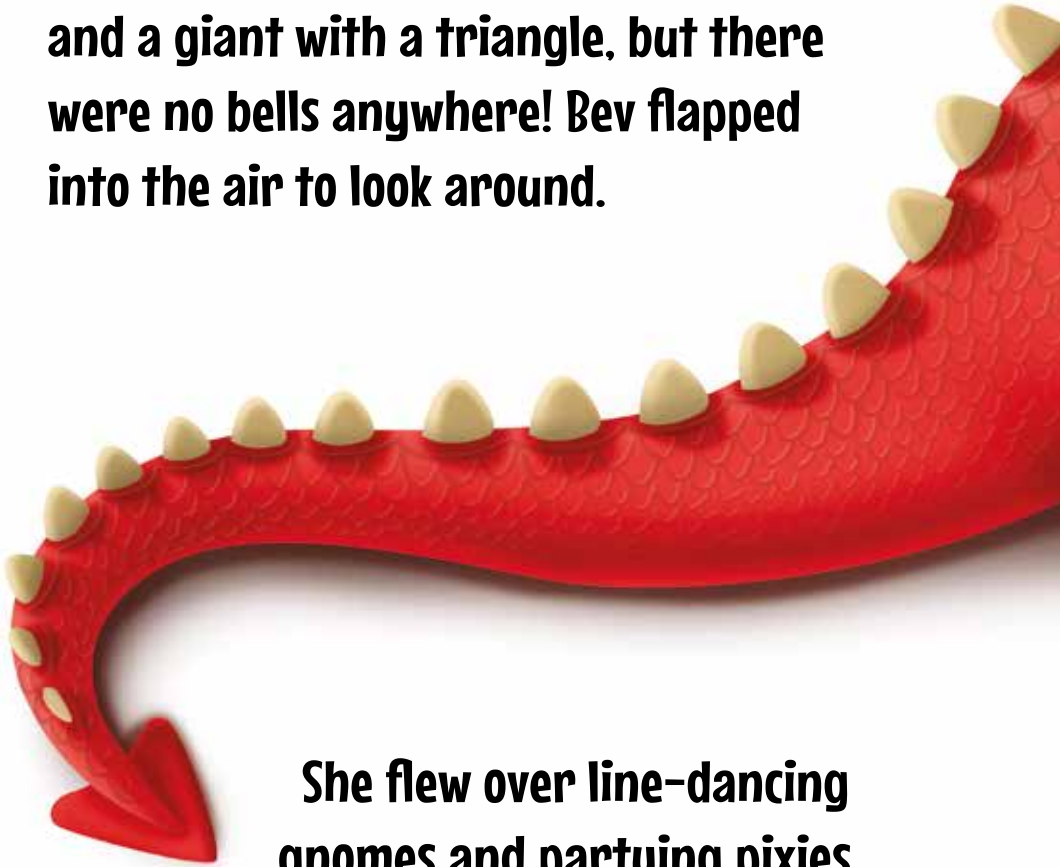
**The others all looked a bit guilty.  
“Sorry we didn’t listen,” Cathy said.  
“But how do we get home?” Sergio asked  
worriedly. Bev turned the card over and  
in the same swirly writing, it said:**



**“We need to find the bell!” Bev said.**

**The kids raced over to where the monster band was still playing. Maybe they had a bell...**

**There was a blob monster on the drums and a giant with a triangle, but there were no bells anywhere! Bev flapped into the air to look around.**



**She flew over line-dancing gnomes and partying pixies. Just then, she spotted a huge gold bell...**



**...half hidden by the enormous,  
fearsome dragon, who was curled  
around it, fast asleep!**

**Bev flapped up to the dragon's head.  
He was even bigger up close,  
and little flames came out  
of his nose as he snored.**



**Bev gulped, but she had to be brave  
– and show Vin she wasn't a baby!**



**WHO WOKE  
ME UP!!!**

**She flew to the bell as quietly as she could, but the tip of her wing tickled the dragon's scales and he woke up!**

**He opened his mouth to breathe fire,  
but Bev rang the bell – just as the clock  
started to strike midnight!**



**Bev felt the magic sparkles surround  
her, and suddenly they were all back  
in the dusty old playroom – and they  
were human again!**





**“I’m sorry I called you a baby, Bev.”  
Vin said. “You were so brave!  
Without you, we would have been stuck  
as monsters for ever.”**



**Bev grinned at her brother, “I said I  
would look after you! But are you *sure*  
you changed back? You still look a bit  
like a monster...!”**

**Everyone laughed as they took off their costumes and put them back in the chest very carefully.**



***After all, Bev thought happily, they might need them for another MONSTER ADVENTURE one day!***

**Every year there's a Monster Ball,  
but no humans have ever been there  
... until now.**

**Six friends are about to go on an  
amazingly magical,  
monstrous adventure!**



**Happy  
Readers**