*A Monster Calls*

1. At what time does the monster appear? (16)
2. ‘Connor blinked groggily at his room’ – What does ‘groggily’ mean? (16)
3. What type of tree can Conor see from his window? (18)
4. What form does the monster take? (20)
5. What emotion does Conor feel when the monster says, ‘I have come to get you, Conor O’Malley’? (21)
6. ‘The monster narrowed its eyes’ – What does this suggest? (22)

* **What do we learn about the character of Conor O’Malley?**

*Breakfast*

1. What has Conor ‘grown used to doing’? (24)
2. What detail indicates that Conor’s experience the night before might not have been a dream? (26)
3. ‘Conor rolled his eyes’ – What does this show about how he feels? (28)
4. Why is Conor’s grandmother coming to stay at the house? (29)
5. What does Conor dislike about how his grandmother treats him? (30)

* **How is the relationship between Conor and his mother presented?**

*School*

1. How do we know that Harry is the leader of his group of friends? (32)
2. What detail indicates that Harry is not as popular as it might seem? (33)
3. What is the ‘mark’ that draws Harry to Conor? (34)
4. ‘Conor’s stomach contracted to a ball of fire’ – What does this reveal about how Conor feels? (35)
5. ‘Miss Kwan asked, her face as serious as a sermon’ – What is a ‘sermon’?

* **What challenges does Conor face at school?**

*Life Writing*

1. Why does Lily have ‘red, puffy eyes’? (38)
2. What detail suggests that Conor’s mother is seriously ill? (40)
3. What does Conor blame Lily for doing? (43)
4. What is described as looking like a ‘sleeping giant’ (43)

* **How is the relationship between Conor and Lily presented?**

*Three Stories*

1. Which details indicate that Conor’s mum is seriously ill? (45)
2. What is Conor ‘used to’? (46)
3. ‘it was a ghastly sight’ – What does the word ‘ghastly’ mean? (47)
4. How much taller than Conor is the monster? (48)
5. How many stories will the monster tell Conor? (51)
6. ‘Connor squirmed in the monster’s hand’ – What does the word ‘squirmed’ mean? (52)
7. What is Conor ‘most afraid of’? (52)
8. What detail indicates that Conor’s experience has not been a dream? (54)

* **What more do we learn about the monster?**

*Grandma*

1. Why does Conor ‘gratefully’ leave the room? (55)
2. What made Conor’s day at school ‘not fine’? (57)
3. ‘His grandma reached forward and snatched the cloth out of his hand’ – Which word indicates her irritation? (59)
4. What surprises Conor about the way his grandma feels? (60)
5. What does Conor say he is not going to do? (61)

* **Which details suggest that Conor’s grandma isn’t quite as bad he seems to believe?**

*The Wildness of Stories*

1. Why does Conor feel that he won’t be able to sleep? (63)
2. What does Conor use ‘all his strength’ to do in the nightmare? (64)
3. ‘Feeling vaguely angry, Conor got up and went into the kitchen’ – What does the word ‘vaguely’ mean? (65)
4. What does the monster describe as ‘wild creatures’? (69)
5. Who is the subject of the monster’s first story? (69)
6. ‘Connor swallowed and looked back at the monster’s face’ – What does this show about how he feels? (69)

* **How is the relationship between Conor and the monster presented?**

*The First Tale*

1. What is the ‘price’ of the king’s victories in battle? (71)
2. Who becomes the heir of the king? (71)
3. What rumour begin to spread about the king’s wife? (72)
4. ‘The kingdom smiled on the match’ – What does this mean? (73)
5. Who does the prince blame for the murder of his bride? (76)
6. What does Conor believe the queen ‘deserved’? (77)

* **How are the prince and the queen presented in the monster’s first story?**

*The Rest of the First Tale*

1. ‘But the queen was overthrown’ – What does the word ‘overthrown’ mean? (79)
2. Why did Conor assume that the queen killed the prince’s bride? (80)
3. Who do people sometimes need to lie to ‘most of all’? (81)
4. ‘Conor looked wide-eyed’ – What does this show about how Conor feels? (81)
5. Who was a ‘murderer’ and who was a ‘witch’ in the story? (83)
6. Why does Conor think the monster’s story is ‘terrible’? (84)
7. What does Conor stare at ‘for a while’? (85)

* **How is the monster’s story different from a traditional fairy tale?**

*Understanding*

1. ‘They glared at each other’ – What does the word ‘glare’ mean? (87)
2. ‘For a moment, all Conor could see was sudden thunderstorms on the way’ – How does Conor feel? (88)
3. Why do Conor’s teachers ‘get a different look on their faces’ when he puts up his hand in lessons? (89)
4. ‘Conor still didn’t flinch’ – What does the word ‘flinch’ mean? (92)
5. What makes Conor feel ‘even worse’? (95)

* **What challenges does Conor face at school?**

*Little Talk*

1. What news does Conor’s grandmother deliver? (96)
2. ‘Then she relented’ – What does the word ‘relented’ mean? (97)
3. When was the last time Conor’s father visited him? (98)
4. ‘She still smiled but it was tighter now’ – What does this show about how Conor’s mother feels? (99)
5. What ‘isn’t doing what it’s supposed to’? (101)

* **What mixed emotions does Conor feel about his father visiting?**

*Grandma’s House*

1. How many days have passed since the monster last visited? (103)
2. ‘Conor muttered as she went to the hall’ – What does the word ‘muttered’ mean? (104)
3. What detail suggests that the relationship between Conor’s grandma and his father isn’t entirely positive? (106)
4. ‘The whole room was like a museum of how people lived in olden times’ – What does this simile reveal? (108)
5. What is Conor ‘actually nervous’ about?

* **How does Conor feel when his father finally arrives?**

*Champ*

1. ‘Conor asked, raising a sceptical eyebrow’ – What does the word ‘sceptical’ mean? (111)
2. ‘His father fidgeted with his wine glass’ – What detail suggests that Conor’s father feels slightly awkward? (111)
3. What does Conor tell his father that makes him feel ‘baffled’? (113)
4. ‘Conor swallowed, still not meeting his eye’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (116)

* **What tensions emerge between Conor and his father?**

*Americans Don’t Get Much Holiday*

1. ‘Conor asked again, his voice low’ – What does Conor’s ‘low’ voice suggest about his mood? (118)
2. ‘Conor ducked it and pulled on the door handle to get out’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (119)
3. ‘His grandma’s precious clock’ – What does the word ‘precious’ mean? (120)
4. What time does the clock stop on? (122)
5. ‘Connor whirled around’ – What does this reveal about how Connor moved? (123)
6. What does the monster say the second story is about? (124)

* **What pressures are there in Conor’s life at this stage of the novel?**

*The Second Tale*

1. How many years ago is the second story set? (125)
2. What is ‘apothecary’ an ‘old-fashioned’ name for? (126)
3. What is the Apothecary surprised at? (127)
4. ‘Conor furrowed his forehead’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (129)
5. Why does the Apothecary want the yew tree? (129)
6. What does the parson offer the Apothecary in return for his help? (131)
7. How does Conor react to the Apothecary’s refusal to help? (131)
8. What does the monster do ‘shortly after midnight’? (132)

* **How are the Apothecary and the parson presented?**

*The Rest of the Second Tale*

1. Which word suggests that Conor is surprised at the monster’s actions? (133)
2. ‘A giant monstrous arm swung back and demolished the walls’ – What does the word ‘demolished’ mean? (135)
3. ‘Seething, Conor looked again at the second monster’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (135)
4. ‘Conor furrowed his forehead’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (129)
5. What does Conor find ‘very satisfying’? (137)
6. What does Conor realise at the end of the chapter? (138)

* **What does Conor learn from the second story?**

*Destruction*

1. What is the ‘only thing left standing’ in the room? (139)
2. What details show that Conor’s grandma is shocked at what she sees? (141)
3. What frightens Conor? (143)

* **How does Conor’s grandmother behave after she discovers that the room has been destroyed?**

*Invisible*

1. Where is the opening of the chapter set? (146)
2. ‘The silence grew heavy’ – What does this suggest about the atmosphere in the room? (148)
3. What does Conor’s father say that ‘worse things happen at sea’ means? (149)
4. What happens to Conor that feels ‘normal’? (150)

* **What challenges does Conor face at school?**

*Yew Trees*

1. What is described as ‘tired’ and ‘exhausted’? (154)
2. Why is Conor ‘suddenly glad he hadn’t eaten since breakfast’? (155)
3. What does Conor remember the monster said to him? (156)
4. What does Conor’s mother reveal that her medicine is made from? (156)
5. What does Conor’s mother ‘hope’ and ‘believe’?

* **What are the connections between the chapter and the monster’s second story?**

*Could it Be?*

1. What does Conor hope the monster will do? (158)
2. Why does Conor’s father say he has to fly back to America? (160)
3. What do Conor and his father disagree about? (161)
4. What is the ‘one thing’ the monster has ‘definitely taught’ Conor? (162)
5. Why is the word ‘world’ in italics? (163)

* **What clues are there to suggest that Connor doesn’t truly believe that his mother will get better?**

*No Tale*

1. Why is Conor’s grandmother barely speaking to him? (164)
2. Where does Conor find himself after the world has changed to ‘grey and emptiness’? (167)
3. What ingredient must stories have to ‘be more important than anything’? (168)
4. ‘Conor said, sourly, under his breath’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (168)

* **What is it about Conor’s nightmare that he finds so distressing?**

*I No Longer See You*

1. What details suggest that Conor’s grandma is still cross with him? (170)
2. What makes Anton and Sully feel uncomfortable in the lunch hall? (172)
3. What does Harry do that Conor doesn’t expect? (173)
4. What words ‘echoed’ in Conor’s head after his interaction with Harry? (174)
5. What time is it at the end of the chapter? (174)

* **What does Harry do that bothers Conor so much?**

*I No Longer See You*

1. What does Harry do when Conor calls him? (176)
2. ‘Anton and Sully looked aghast’ – What does the word ‘aghast’ mean? (177)
3. Who is the only student to make eye contact with Conor ‘for longer than a second’? (178)
4. What does Harry say in response to his own question? (179)

* **Why does Conor attack Harry?**

*Punishment*

1. ‘Conor kept his eyes on the carpet’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (180)
2. What deters Harry’s parents from suing the school? (181)
3. What does Conor remember about the fight? (182)
4. What makes Conor’s ‘stomach sink’? (185)
5. Why does the Headmistress choose not to punish Conor? (185)

* **What makes Conor ‘further away than ever’ at the end of the chapter?**

*A Note*

1. What does Conor wait for every night? (188)
2. What detail provides evidence for Conor becoming ‘so familiar’ with the hospital? (189)
3. Who does Conor initially think is trying to attract his attention? (190)
4. Who is the note from? (192)

* **How do Lily’s actions affect Conor?**

*100 Years*

1. ‘Conor’s heart leapt’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels?
2. ‘Conor crossed his arms tightly in front of himself’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels?
3. What news does Conor’s mother tell him? (196)
4. ‘She didn’t answer’ – What does the choice not to answer the question reveal? (197)
5. ‘Conor didn’t answer her’ – Why does Conor choose not to answer his mother’s question? (198)
6. ‘He was bent in two’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (199)
7. Where does Conor ask to go at the end of the chapter? (200)

* **How does Conor react to the news about his mother’s illness?**

*What’s the Use of You?*

1. How does Conor feel when he arrives at home? (201)
2. What does Conor shout at the yew tree? (203)
3. Why is Conor so angry? (204)
4. Where does Conor find himself at the end of the chapter? (206)

* **Why does Conor seem more angry than sad?**

*The Fourth Tale*

1. ‘The monster set him down abruptly’ – What does the word ‘abruptly’ mean? (208)
2. Who does Conor see ‘on the cliff’s edge’? (209)
3. What is Conor’s mother ‘much too weak’ to prevent? (210)
4. ‘He was on the cliff edge, bracing himself’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (211)
5. What is ‘slipping’ from Conor’s grasp? (213)
6. What is the ‘most perfect moment’ of the nightmare? (214)

* **What makes Conor’s nightmare so terrifying?**

*The Rest of the Fourth Tale*

1. ‘Conor said, getting shakily to his feet’ – What do we learn about how Conor feels? (215)
2. What is the ‘truth’ that Conor eventually reveals? (220)
3. What is the ‘punishment’ that Conor deserves? (220)

* **Why is Conor so reluctant to reveal the ‘truth’?**

*The Rest of the Fourth Tale*

1. What does Conor say he has ‘known forever’? (221)
2. What does the monster say ‘is not the truth at all’? (222)
3. What does the monster say Conor was ‘merely wishing for’? (223)
4. Who does the monster say are ‘complicated beasts’? (223)
5. What does the monster say is most important? (225)
6. What does the monster change into? (226)

* **What different perspectives on the situation does the monster help Conor to see?**

*Something in Common*

1. Where does Conor find himself when he wakes-up? (227)
2. Who does Conor see? (229)
3. What are Conor and his grandma ‘going to have to learn’? (230)
4. What do Conor and his grandma ‘have in common’? (231)

* **How has the relationship between Conor and his grandma changed?**

*The Truth*

1. ‘His grandma burst into his mum’s hospital room’ – What does the word ‘burst’ show about the movement? (232)
2. Who is in the room? (232)
3. What does the monster say? (233)
4. What ‘truth’ does Conor speak? (236)
5. What time does Conor know will come? (236)
6. What does Conor holding ‘tightly onto his mother’ allow him to do? (237)

* **How are the final moments between Conor and his mother presented?**