

Child's bedroom 'monster' was 60,000 bees

2nd May 2024



Most small children are afraid of the dark and can have nightmares in bed. They are scared of noises at night, or are frightened of imaginary monsters in their bedroom. For one little girl in the USA, the monster turned out to be real.

Three-year-old Saylor spent months telling her parents that there were "monsters in the wall" of her bedroom. Saylor's parents thought the "monsters" came from their daughter's overactive imagination. Saylor's mother said the little girl had just seen the Pixar movie *Monsters, Inc.* She thought that was the reason Saylor was seeing monsters. However, Saylor's parents were shocked when they found out there was something behind their daughter's bedroom wall. There were 60,000 bees.

After the mother found the bees, she called a beekeeper. The beekeeper said the insects were honeybees. These are a protected species in the USA, so they could not be killed. The beekeeper used a thermal camera to see the heat patterns behind the wall. He said he had never seen so many bees in a house. He drilled a hole in the bedroom wall and hundreds of the creatures flew out. The mother said: "They just came pouring out like a horror movie." The beekeeper has removed about 45 kg of honeycomb. The beekeeper captured the bees and put them in special boxes. They are now living in safety on a honeybee sanctuary. The bees caused more than \$20,000 in damages to the house.

Sources: yahho.com / unilad.com / upworthy.com

Writing

Children need help to overcome their nightmares at night. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

children / the dark / nightmares / noises / monsters / imagination / reason / bees / insects / protected species / heat / patterns / horror movie / honeycomb / damages

True / False

- 1) The article says all small children are afraid of the dark. T / F
- 2) Children are scared of noises throughout the day. T / F
- 3) The girl's parents thought a movie made the girl imagine monsters. T / F
- 4) There were 60,000 bees in the ceiling of the little girl's bedroom. T / F
- 5) Honeybees are a protected species in the USA. T / F
- 6) A beekeeper used a special microphone to listen to the bees. T / F
- 7) The beekeeper drilled a hole in the wall of the little girl's bedroom. T / F
- 8) The house needs \$20,000 in repairs because of the bees. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. afraid | a. cause |
| 2. real | b. swarming |
| 3. reason | c. discovered |
| 4. shocked | d. created |
| 5. found out | e. genuine |
| 6. insects | f. bugs |
| 7. pouring | g. refuge |
| 8. captured | h. scared |
| 9. sanctuary | i. surprised |
| 10. caused | j. caught |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the sound of bees?
- b) What do you think of bees?
- c) What do you think of the job of a beekeeper?
- d) How important are honeybees?
- e) What do you know about honeycomb?
- f) Why do you think bees are a protected species?
- g) What different things can we do with honey?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the little girl?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Most small children are afraid | a. in their bedroom |
| 2. frightened of imaginary monsters | b. hole in the bedroom wall |
| 3. the monster turned | c. the bees |
| 4. their daughter's overactive | d. daughter's bedroom wall |
| 5. there was something behind their | e. in damages |
| 6. These are a protected | f. imagination |
| 7. He drilled a | g. out like a horror movie |
| 8. They just came pouring | h. of the dark |
| 9. The beekeeper captured | i. species in the USA |
| 10. The bees caused more than \$20,000 | j. out to be real |

Discussion – Student B

- What were you afraid of when you were a small child?
- Did you think there were monsters in your bedroom?
- What do you think of monsters?
- Why are there so many movies about monsters?
- What do you know about bees?
- Do you think the girl will be afraid of bees?
- What insects are you scared of?
- How would you deal with 60,000 bees in your room?

Spelling

- children are adriaf of the dark
- have segrimnath in bed
- frightened of aiigrnamy monsters
- their daughter's overactive ntiiaaimong
- the ensroa Saylor was seeing monsters
- Saylor's ntspear were shocked
- the tsncise were honeybees
- a protected secespi in the USA
- hundreds of the cretsurae flew out
- The beekeeper tadpuce the bees
- living in safety on a honeybee nsraacytu
- more than \$20,000 in daasgme

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. f	7. b	8. j	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Bees

You think bees are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as useful. Also, tell the others which are the least useful of these (and why): worms, spiders or centipedes.

Role B – Worms

You think worms are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as useful. Also, tell the others which are the least useful of these (and why): bees, spiders or centipedes.

Role C – Spiders

You think spiders are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as useful. Also, tell the others which are the least useful of these (and why): worms, bees or centipedes.

Role D – Centipedes

You think centipedes are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as useful. Also, tell the others which are the least useful of these (and why): worms, spiders or bees.

Speaking – Useful Bugs

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful bugs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| • Bees | • Praying mantis |
| • Worms | • Spiders |
| • Butterflies | • Centipedes |
| • Ants | • Cockroaches |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.