What Makes a Monster?
Jess Keating

GENRE: Nonfiction
LEXILE: NC1030L

RELEVANT WEBSITES:
Jess Keating's Site
GoodReads Link
Book Trailer
What Makes a Monster Cover Reveal and Author Interview

Also, check out this video the author made about the book, in which Jess Keating reveals an animal she couldn't include and asks students to get in touch to tell her their favorite animal from the book. This might make a good email-writing activity!

BOOK SUMMARY:
What Makes a Monster? is a hilarious, fun book about seventeen monstrous creatures such as the vampire bat, the aye-aye, and the komodo dragon, just to name a few. While at first glance these creatures may seem monstrous, this book shows they pose no real threat to humans.

BOOKTALK:
Do you enjoy creepy characters such as Wolverine? Dracula? The Kraken? Are scary movies and monsters your thing? Or maybe you just enjoy learning about nature’s fascinating creatures. In What Makes a Monster?, you'll meet seventeen monstrous creatures such as a horror frog who is sometimes known as the Wolverine frog, the vampire bat, a mini Dracula, and the Humboldt squid, the possible inspiration for the legendary Kraken. What makes a monster? Read this book to find out, if you dare...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. Which animal is the scariest? Defend your answer.
2. Which creature in the book is the most innocent? Defend your answer.
3. Which adaptation or scary trait is your favorite? Explain why.
4. Why did the author include humans as the 17th monster?
5. What message was Jess Keating, the author, trying to send to her readers?

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS, YOU MIGHT ALSO ENJOY:
1. Pink Is for Blobfish by Jess Keating
2. Cute as an Axolotl by Jess Keating
3. World's Weirdest Animals by Matt Roper

ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY: Janette Fluharty/Teacher/Avon Intermediate School East