

SOLVING PROBLEMS TOGETHER

Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

Setting: A Village near Lake Shimmer

Characters:

Narrator

Gimme, the Purple-eyed Monster

Maura

Sabrina

Mitchel

Mrs. Shay

Narrator: Once upon a time, near Lake Shimmer, there was a village of very timid people. One day a strange thing happened! As Maura, Sabrina, and Mitchel were playing by the lake, a Purple-eyed Monster appeared bubbling up through the water.

Gimme: (beating his chest) Arhhhh! Uga – lugga – doo! Who - are - YOU?

Maura: (screaming) Look, It's a Purple-eyed Monster!

Sabrina: (screaming) Let's get out of here!

Mitchel: (screaming) Quick! He's coming after us!

Narrator: And so the three children ran and ran as fast as their feet would carry them. They scrambled up the steps of their home, opened the front door, leapt inside and latched the door tight.

Gimme: Arhhhh! Uga – lugga – moe! Where - did - THEY - go?

Narrator: The monster stomped out of the water and slowly pounded his way across the street toward the children's house. Just then, Mrs. Shay came out of her house on her way to the market. No sooner had she gone three steps when she stopped!

Mrs. Shay (screaming) Oh! My! Is that a Purple-eyed Monster I see?

Narrator: Quickly she turned around, ran back three steps, opened her front door, entered her home and latched the door tight.

Gimme: Arhhhh! Uga – lugga – so! Where – did – SHE - go?

Narrator: The Purple-eyed Monster stood there with a puzzled look on his face. Everyone just disappeared! In the meantime, Lady Shay was on the phone.

Mrs. Shay: (hysterically) Have you seen the Purple-eyed Monster? Quick, look out your window! Did you see it? Well... What shall we do? Oh! That's a great idea. Would you help me call all the villagers and tell them to meet tonight at midnight in the Town Hall to discuss how we shall get rid of the Purple-eyed Monster!

Narrator: And so, when the Town Hall clock struck twelve, all of the timid people crept out of their homes and gathered inside the Town Hall. Suddenly, while they were sitting nervously, they felt the floor shake and they heard a loud booming voice. It was the Purple-eyed Monster. He bent way down and peered in the window.

Gimme: Arhhhh! Uga – lugga – loo! I – see- YOU!

Narrator: The timid people shivered and shook. They all looked at Mrs. Shay.

Maura: Mrs. Shay, I've heard that you are very wise. Please tell us how we can make the Purple-eyed Monster disappear.

Narrator: Mrs. Shay thought and thought when suddenly an idea popped into her mind.

Mrs. Shay: Well... I think we must do something magical?

Sabrina: What kind of magical thing, Mrs. Shay?

Mrs. Shay: That's a problem I'm having. I really don't know what magical thing we're supposed to do, but I think we all must go together to the town square and listen carefully and we will be told what to do.

Mitchel: But, Mrs. Shay, the Purple-eyed Monster will be there!

Mrs. Shay: Well... If we all hold hands tightly, the monster won't be able to grab any one of us.

Narrator: And so the timid villagers walked quickly to the town square holding hands tightly, so that the Purple-eyed Monster had no chance of grabbing one of them.

Gimme: Arhhhh! Arhhhh! Uga – lugga - ... Uga – lugga - ... Arhhhh!

Narrator: The Purple-eyed Monster was clearly upset when he saw all of the villagers holding hands. He couldn't grab anyone so he started to sing in a big booming voice.

Gimme: You can't give me a fish and a frog, a fish and a frog, a fish and a frog,
You can't give me a fish and a frog jumping from a log.

Narrator: All of the villagers looked at each other. They didn't know what to do. Then they heard a little boy's voice.

Mitchel: I know how we can do that! Watch me and do what I do!

Narrator: And so, all the villagers looked at Mitchel as he pretended to be a fish and a frog jumping from a log. Soon all the villagers were pretending to be fish and frogs jumping from logs. Then they started singing along with the Purple-eyed Monster.

All: You can't give me a fish and a frog, a fish and a frog, a fish and a frog,
You can't give me a fish and a frog jumping from a log.

Gimme: Arhhh! STOP THAT NOISE!

Narrator: But the people kept singing and jumping around. Suddenly, something began to happen to the Purple-eyed Monster.

Mrs. Shay: (whispering) Look at the Purple-eyed Monster everyone! I know what is happening. Because Mitchel *listened very carefully* to the Purple-eyed Monster and started to do what the Monster commanded, well... that must be the magical way to get rid of him. Let's keep singing and jumping and see what happens.

Narrator: And the people continued singing and jumping. Their eyes opened wider and wider as they saw the Purple-eyed Monster slowly shrink smaller and smaller until "Poof," he disappeared.

Everyone: Hooray! We did it! The Purple-eyed Monster is gone!

Mrs. Shay: Let's give a big "Hooray" to Mitchel because he *listened very carefully* and knew how to do the monster's wish. And a "Hooray" for all of us villagers. *Only by working together* were we able to get rid of the Purple-eyed Monster.

Narrator: As the villagers returned to their homes, they were laughing and singing in such a merry way, that they were no longer a *timid* people.