

Monster Trucks

By Tedd Arnold

Before Reading

Preview the cover together. Read the title and look at the photo. Do you recognize the character above the truck? Can you read the words on the side of the truck? Does the way the truck is painted hint at what the words mean? (*El Toro Loco* translates to “The Crazy Bull.”) Point out which of the truck’s features you think make it a MONSTER!

While Reading

Talk about what monster trucks are. How tall are they? How much do they weigh? To what does Buzz compare the size of a monster truck?

What are some interesting facts about monster-truck tires? What do tall tires allow a monster truck to do? What is unusual about the way a monster truck’s steering works? What does this allow the truck to do?

What are the parts of a monster truck? Talk about them, and explain what they do.

After Reading

Safety first! What safety devices do drivers and passengers in a regular car use? What safety equipment do people wear when they ride bicycles or skateboards? Compare these to what the driver of a monster truck wears and uses to stay safe. Who do you think is better protected?

Literacy Tip

The author uses text features—like captions, speech and thought bubbles, photo insets, and diagrams—to illustrate facts about monster trucks. Go back through the book together. Identify the text features, and talk about what you learned from them.

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Think About It!

The trucks in this book are amazing. Revisit the book and look at the different designs on the trucks. Notice that the trucks' names reflect their designs. Imagine that you could design your own monster truck. What would it look like? On a piece of paper, draw a picture of your truck. Does your truck look like an animal or like something else? How big are the tires? Are there messages or designs on the body? What is your truck called?

Get Up and Do It!

Now BE the monster truck you just designed! Perform your own version of the "Big Air" by leaping from one spot to another. Then do a "Wheelie," where you drive around on your back wheels (your feet!). Don't forget your monster-truck sound effects!