

**“Monsters, Inc.” starring Billy Crystal, John Goodman, Steve Buscemi,  
2001, G, 92 minutes**

### **Major themes:**

- Doors
- Teamwork
- Fear
- Monsters
- Adventures
- Dreams
- Laughter
- Attachment

### **Major characters:**

- James P. “Sully” Sullivan
- Mike Wazowski
- Boo
- Randall Boggs
- Henry J. Waternoose
- Celia
- Roz

## Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

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### Background info:

- The film was in production for five years. It won the Academy Award for the Best Original Song (for Randy Newman's "*If I Didn't Have You*", his first Oscar after 16 nominations!).
- John Goodman and Billy Crystal sometimes recorded their lines in the same room together, an unusual move for animated films, where actors more often work alone.
- Sulley has 2,320,413 hair strands. Because of this complexity, each single frame took 11 to 12 hours to render!
- The four-year old girl who played "Boo" was too young to be able to sit still and record lines. Instead, the team followed her around with a microphone and constructed her "dialogue" from the things she said while she played.
- Sulley feeds Boo some cereal with the following ingredients: tentacles (includes suckers), sugar pods, gelatin, artificial flavor, artificial color (Yellow 53 & 54, Red 400, Blue 21, Plaid 16, Puce 30), salt, seawater, naturally occurring mercury, barium, sulfuric acid, lead, bile, blood, sweat, tears, zinc oxide, vitamins D & F, anemone, brine shrimp, coral, plankton, deadly pufferfish, depleted uranium (to preserve freshness).
- According to the film's credits, no monsters were harmed in the making of the film.

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### Scriptures:

1 John 4:17 – 21 (The Message) – *“God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we’re free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ’s. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.*

*We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.*

*If anyone boasts, ‘I love God,’ and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won’t love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can’t see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You’ve got to love both.”*

Psalms 118:5 – 7a (NLT) – *“In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Yes, the Lord is for me; he will help me.”*

Luke 6:21 (NLT) – *“God blesses you who are hungry now, for you will be satisfied. God blesses you who weep now, for in due time you will laugh.”*

Revelation 3:20 (NLT) – *“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”*

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### Discussion points:

1. Fear has a way of dehumanizing others, whereas love enables us to see others as the people they are. What fears do you notice seem prevalent or commonplace in the world around you?
2. Which is worse – known enemies, or fear of the unknown? Why?
3. If we miss a door of opportunity in life, is it wisest to attempt to find that door again, wait for the next door presented to us, or something else?
4. Sulley and Mike made a great team. What are some attributes, characteristics, or practices that made teams really work well?
5. As various characters first encountered one another, they judged one another largely on the basis of outward appearances and hearsay. But as they got to know one another, they realized that inside, each “person” was pretty special. In fact, they became somewhat attached to one another. What are some practical ways in which we can get past our prejudices and really connect with others who are different from us?
6. Proverbs 17:22 says that *“a joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”* How can we cultivate having a joyful heart in our lives?
7. Which monster do you most relate to, and why?