

# **Rules of the House**

## **By: Mac Barnett**

## **Illustrated: Matt Myers**

**Synopsis:** Ian always follows the rules and his sister, Jenny, never does, but when she angers some monsters while breaking all the rules of their vacation house in the woods, Ian first runs away, then realizes there should be a rule about protecting your sister from being eaten by monsters.

**Suggested Reading Date:** First week of school (to introduce rules)  
Week of April 10...National Siblings Day  
Last week of October...Halloween

### **Activity Descriptions:**

- Students will type/write up a list of 3-5 rules that are important to follow in their own homes and/or classrooms. Paste these to a piece of red construction paper that has been decorated like a door. (Activity best suited for students in grades 2-3)
- Collaborate with classroom teachers in using the red door format for establishing rules/expectations for the beginning of the year.
- Promote a classroom door-decorating contest with a "Rules of the House" theme.

### **Related Websites:**

- Author Website: <https://www.macbarnett.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <http://www.myerspains.com/>
- TED talk by Mac Barnett:  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/mac\\_barnett\\_why\\_a\\_good\\_book\\_is\\_a\\_secret\\_door](https://www.ted.com/talks/mac_barnett_why_a_good_book_is_a_secret_door) (not for kids, but gives you a great look into Mac's philosophy of writing fiction for kids).
- Book trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XXI\\_unTsg8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XXI_unTsg8)

**Text to Text Connections:** If you like this book, you might also want to use:

*In a Dark, Dark Room, and Other Scary Stories* -- Alvin Schwartz

*An Eyeball in My Garden: and other spine-tingling poems* (selected and edited by Jennifer Cole Judd and Laura Wynkoop)

*School Rules!* -- Bonnie Bader

*Pinkalicious: School Rules!* -- Victoria Kann

*The Pain and the Great One* -- Judy Blume (sibling relationships)

*The Younger Brother's Survival Guide:* -- *Matt* by Lisa Kopelke

*And to Think That We'd Never Be Friends* -- Mary Ann Hoberman

**Created By: Barb Hagerty**