

# The child and the monster

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Caleb's parents had bought a new house. Moving day arrived, and everyone was very excited. Caleb was a boy who loved to investigate. He had two round and very rosy cheeks, was short, and very handsome.

One night, after they had moved in, Caleb was preparing his backpack because the next day was his first day of school. He was happy and excited. While he organized everything, he realized he had to prepare his clothes and headed to his closet. Suddenly, he felt the closet shake abruptly. He looked to the side and saw a door open, revealing a long hallway. Just then, he noticed something or someone approaching him. It was a monster! He was terrified. The monster had standing hair, a disfigured face, and walked in long strides. His strong steps made the whole room shake violently. Caleb, scared, watched as the monster approached him very abruptly until suddenly, he was injected with something. Caleb fell asleep. When he woke up, he was lying on the floor, and his parents were calling him. Dazed, he looked at his parents, whom he struggled to recognize. He didn't understand what was going on. When his mother saw that Caleb was recovering and that everything was okay, she left him alone in the room and went downstairs. Before leaving, she said, "If you need anything, let me know, okay?".

Caleb was dizzy, and suddenly he began to remember the disfigured face, footsteps, and hair of the monster. Just then, his cell phone started to ring and vibrate. It was a video call from his friend. "Hi Caleb! How are you?" He was still a little dazed and said, "Fine, well, see you tomorrow." His friend, surprised by his attitude, asked if he was okay or if he was tired because they could see that his sign language was not normal. Caleb told them that he was fine, but as soon as he could, he ended the call because he didn't feel well. After a while, he thought about going back to the door where the monster had appeared and calling it. He opened it and started shouting, "Monster, come! Monster, come!" A few moments later, a character appeared with a spotless white cloak and a completely pale face. They established this dialogue:

"Did you inject me earlier?" "No, wait." "Answer me!" "Let me tell you... Many, many years ago, in this very house, there was a monster, the same monster you saw before. He injected me with an elixir in my heart that made me change and turned me into what I am now. Since then, my heart has dried up, and that's why I'm now a monster, but I'm a good monster, and I can help you. " "So, there are two monsters." "Yes, I'm good, but there's another one who is bad, and he's inside this house." "What's happening to me is that since he injected me with the elixir, I feel very tired, and most importantly, I can't sign. My hands move very slowly." "Of course, because he injected me in the heart. That's what he wanted to do to you, but he injected it into your hands. " "Ah, he injected something into my hands, and that's why I can't sign! Now I understand. What should I do? How do we fix this?" "You have to wait." Suddenly, the good monster disappeared. Confused, Caleb lay down and fell asleep instantly. The next morning, Caleb woke up and remembered that he had his backpack

ready and everything set to go to school. His mother went to get him in his room, and they left the house together.

Caleb was happy because it was the first day of school. The teacher organized the students in a line and they entered the classroom. Everyone sat at their desks. The teacher suggested they tell a story. Caleb stood in front of all his classmates ready to tell his story. "A long time ago... an airplane... in a place...". Caleb couldn't form the signs, his arms felt heavy, his movements weren't natural. The teacher asked him what was happening but Caleb couldn't explain it, he didn't know what was happening to him and returned to his desk.

It was time to leave school. Caleb went down the stairs and greeted his parents very happily. Just then, his teacher approached to talk to his parents. He told them that there was a very serious problem because something was happening with their son's sign language and he wasn't expressing himself well. The parents explained to the teacher that everything was going well in the previous school. Caleb watched the conversation and thought that all this had to do with what had happened with the monster but he was unable to tell his parents or teacher. He felt terrible.

Just a week later, he encountered the white-caped monster again. The monster asked Caleb to raise his hands. Caleb didn't understand anything and wasn't sure, but the monster insisted: "If you want to recover your sign language, you must do it". Caleb raised his hands with uncertainty. At that moment, the white-caped monster placed his palms next to Caleb's. Suddenly, a strong light emerged from between their hands. The flashes were so strong that Caleb had to turn his head and close his eyes. A moment later, everything went dark and there was a moment of absolute calm. Caleb realized that this was the last time he would see the monster, but that he would be connected to him forever because a connection had formed between them.

Caleb spent the whole night unable to sleep, thinking about everything that had happened to him that week. It was time to get up. His parents went to his room and reminded him that he had plans with all his friends. It was a magical day because Caleb realized that he had regained his ability to sign and his day was full of sign language. As he signed with his friends, he looked up, remembering "someone" who had helped him recover his language. Happiness had returned to Caleb's life!