

The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street

by ROD SERLING

Connect to Your Life

Facing the Unknown What happens to you when you think that danger is near? With a classmate, brainstorm ways in which you and other people might react to fear. List your ideas in a chart. Then watch as the characters in this selection deal with their fear of the unknown.

| Individual | Groups |
|-------------|----------------|
| heart races | cling together |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Build Background

HISTORY

On March 4, 1960, *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street* was aired as an episode of *The Twilight Zone*, a television series created by Rod Serling. Eerie and very suspenseful, the series became one of the most popular shows in television history during its 1959–1964 run. Its stories often involved ordinary people in suburban settings typical of the late 1950s. The events in the stories were far from ordinary, however; they were a window into an imaginary world beyond ours—the twilight zone.

WORDS TO KNOW Vocabulary Preview

| | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| antagonism | idiosyncrasy | legitimate |
| contorted | incriminate | optimistic |
| defiant | intense | persistent |
| flustered | | |


Focus Your Reading

LITERARY ANALYSIS TELEPLAY

A play written for television is called a **teleplay**. Like all drama scripts, a teleplay includes **stage directions**. Stage directions explain the setting, provide suggestions for the actors and the director, and describe props, lighting, sound effects, and camera directions. As you read, visualize what a performance of the drama might look like.

ACTIVE READING AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

An **author's purpose** is his or her reason for creating a particular work. The purpose may be to entertain, to explain or inform, to express an opinion, or to persuade readers to do or believe something. Often, understanding the **theme** (the moral or message) of a work can help you identify the author's purpose.

 **READER'S NOTEBOOK** As you read, record details that help you identify Rod Serling's purpose or purposes for writing this drama.