

EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION Theme and Title

Instruction The title of a literary work often tells the reader something about the theme of the story. In many cases, the full meaning of the title isn't clear to the reader until the end of the story. For example, if students have read "One Ordinary Day, With Peanuts" in Unit Three Part One, the term "ordinary day" may have taken on new meaning at the end of the story when they realize that what the characters do every day is far from ordinary.

Practice Ask students to write down their thoughts on what the title *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street* might tell about the theme of this story. Ask, "Who are the monsters? What effect do the two terms 'monsters' and 'Maple Street' have when they are in the same title?" Discuss students' answers as a class, then discuss them again after reading the story.

Possible Responses: The title links two terms that are not much alike—the science fiction word "monsters" with the realistic fiction element "Maple Street." Students may suggest that the monsters might be aliens, they might be people come back from the dead, or they might be the characters in the play.



Use **Unit Three Resource Book**, p. 44.