

Baby Monkey, Private Eye

Author: David Serlin & Brian Selznick

Illustrator: Brian Selznick

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Synopsis:

Bookmaking maverick Brian Selznick and children's book debut author David Serlin create a dazzling new form with all the hallmarks of a Selznick classic, this time for a younger audience!

Who is Baby Monkey?

He is a baby. He is a monkey. He has a job. He is Baby Monkey, Private Eye!

Lost jewels? Missing pizza? Stolen spaceship?

Baby Monkey can help...

if he can put on his pants!

Baby Monkey's adventures come to life in an exciting blend of picture book, beginning reader, and graphic novel. With pithy text and over 120 black and white drawings accented with red, it is ideal for sharing aloud and for emerging readers.

Hooray for Baby Monkey!

Author Bio:

David Serlin is a writer, editor, and historian who teaches at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author or editor of numerous books and articles for adults. *Baby Monkey, Private Eye* is his first book for children. He divides his time between Brooklyn, New York and San Diego, California.

Illustrator Bio:

Brian Selznick grew up in New Jersey and graduated from the Rhode Island School of Art and Design in 1988. He worked for two years after graduation at Eeyore's Books for Children in New York City. His first book was published while he worked there.

Brian has also designed theatre sets and worked as a professional puppeteer. His first book, *The Houdini Box*, was inspired by a fascination with the famous magician. He has illustrated both novels and picture books for other writers, including the Sibert Honor books, *When Marian Sang* by Pam Munoz Ryan and Walt Whitman: *Words for America* by Barbara Kerley. His illustrations for Barbara Kerley's *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* won a Caldecott Honor Award in 2002; and in 2008, his groundbreaking book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* was awarded the Caldecott Medal. It was nominated for a National Book Award and was the basis for Martin Scorsese's Oscar winning film *Hugo*. His follow up illustrated novel, *Wonderstruck*, debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list. Brian's next book, *The Marvels*, will be published in the fall of 2015. Brian divides his time between New York, and San Diego.

Themes:

Detective/Mystery Story
Beginner Reader

Curriculum links:

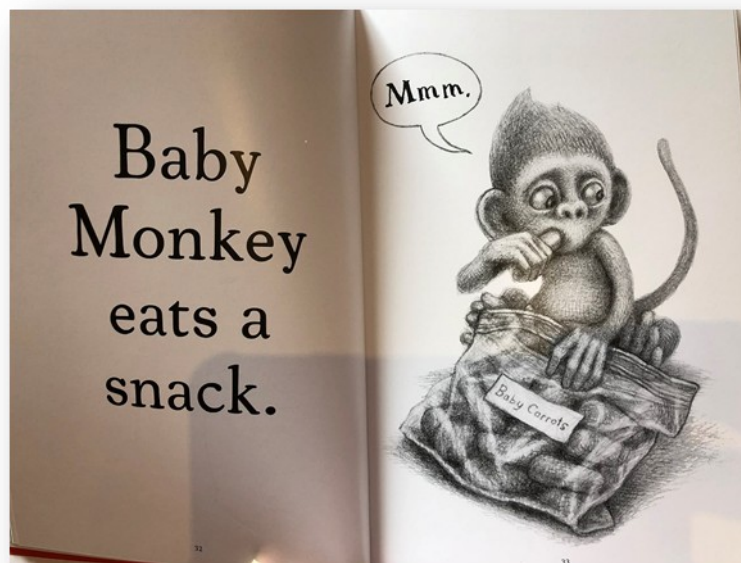
Science Year 1 Biological Sciences [ACSSU017](#)

English Year 1 [ACELY1659](#), [ACELT1582](#), [ACELT1583](#), [ACELT1584](#)

The Arts [ACAAM107](#)

I can guarantee you that if you handed this book to a beginning reader, and said this was for them to read, they would be horrified. Without opening it up their initial reaction would be... 'I can't read that it's too big!' And that's a fair comment, it is a big book. It has 192 pages, 5 chapters, a key, an index and a bibliography. It's not until that you open the book, that you realise that this is in fact a book for beginning readers.

The text is sparse, bold and repetitive. The illustrations give visual clues that support the text, ideal for building confidence in readers.



- Before reading the book, have a look at the cover and the title. (The term Private Eye may need to be explained)
- Ask if anyone knows what a Private Eye is? Why do you think Baby Monkey might have a magnifying glass in the picture on the cover? Once determined, ask what they think a Private eye/detective actually does?
- Now you know what a Private Eye is, what do you think the story might be about?

Science: [ACSSU017](#)

Baby Monkey Solves the case when he sees the footprints/tracks. These are the clues as to who has committed each crime.

If reading the book aloud to a group, have a closer look at the tracks and see if they can guess who (what animal) the culprit may be.

- Look at the tracks of other animals:

<https://boyslife.org/quizzes/6662/animal-track-identification-quiz/>

<https://www.education.com/worksheet/article/australian-animal-tracks/>

- Discuss why different animals have different kinds of feet?

<https://www.earthrangers.com/wildwire/top-10/top-ten-coolest-animal-feet/>

The Arts: Visual Arts [ACAVAM107](#)

Cross hatching is the method of using black and white lines to give the illusion of tone or shade in a black and white drawing, which by definition, has only two tones or shade - Black and white

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=117AN3MQuVs>

Shoo Rayner:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huD94n20iBY>

Additional Resources:

Book Trailer Baby Monkey, Private Eye

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEKkT6ix9Yo>

Baby Monkey Activity sheet:

https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/scholastic/kids/pdf/Baby%20Monkey/Scholastic_BBYMNKY_Activity02.pdf

