

Monster Story

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“Grumpy” George is 12 years old and lives in Screamfield, Krillinois, and he isn’t actually grumpy, he just looks that way because of the wrinkles he was born with. His only friends at school are Zombunny and Kelpie, and they are embarrassed to be seen with him. Nobody understands him because of his mustache, it always blocks his words so other people think he is muttering profanities. You might be thinking “well why doesn’t he just cut the mustache off?”, his mustache is a limb, you can’t cut it off without hurting him, they learned that after, *The Incident*. George also LOVES math, for George math is the only thing that made him feel relaxed and included.

George is adopted, he’s never met his real parents and doesn’t want to. The barber adopted him and learned the noises George makes for each word so he could talk to him. The barber had a wife but left him because she couldn’t understand George and started hating him, because of George she didn’t have her picture perfect family and the barber gave more attention to George than her. The barber treats George the same way, even after all the drama, which is why George loves him so much.

George is going to his first day of middle school today and he is very nervous.

The day school was started George woke up at 5:00 am. He got dressed and packed his bag and by the time he was done it was 6:30 am, the barber woke up and yelled to George sleepily, "It's 6:30, school starts at 8:30, go to bed!", "Ok!", George yelled back. He tried to fall asleep but he couldn't because he was too worried about school. Everybody at elementary school always teased him about looking old, and all the teachers didn't like him because whenever he tried to answer a question it sounded like he was making fun of the teachers. This year George was going to stay as quiet as possible, avoid people, and keep his head down, he just wanted to get through the school year

He looked at his clock and it was 7:55 am, it took him about 20 minutes to get to school. He got out of bed , got his bag and went into the kitchen and ate breakfast, "Good morning early bird." said the barber, "Ready for the first day of school?". George never told the barber that people bullied him, "Yeah" said George lying. Once he was done eating breakfast, he got in the car with the barber and headed to school.

When he got to school it was 8:25, he saw Zombunny and Kelpie and walked up to them, "Hi", said George, "What did you say?", asked Zombunny. "He said hi you dead brain!" shouted Kelpie. "Well listen, we got into the popular monster's group, so you have to keep your distance so we could stay that way.", explained Zombunny, "So you aren't my friends anymore.", said George, very sad. "What did you say?", said Kelpie "Well whatever, bye". Both of them hurried off to their lockers, on the way a monster hi-fived both of them. His name was Flanke, he was tall, gruesome, and very popular. Flanke

came up to George and said, "What's your name?", George replied and Flanke yelled, "DID YOU JUST CALL ME A GIRL!!!", Flanke took George's backpack and threw it in the trash, and said, "That's what you get!" and walked off laughing. George was near tears, he got his bag out of the trash and walked to class already late.

His first class was math with Ms.Coywen, he walked into class, got his assigned seat and sat down, he looked to his right and saw Flanke, Flanke turned and saw George and grinned evilly. "Ok class", said Ms.Coywen "Today we are going to look at a problem nobody in my previous classes have been able to solve." On the board she wrote: $2 \times 0 + 0$. George laughed and everybody turned to him, he was so embarrassed. Ms.Coywen then said, "I suppose you know the answer since you laughed." George nodded and made a zero with his hand. Ms.Coywen laughed and said, "Nice try.", a second later she realized he was right.

Ms.Coywen called George and Flanke to the hallway. "Boys you two have proved to be exceptional at math, Flanke your grades show your knowledge and so does yours George. If it ok with you I would like to enter you two in the statewide math competition. The prize is 100,000 monster dollars." Flanke said yes instantly and George nodded his head hesitantly, he knew the barber could use the money. Ms. Coywen congratulated them and they all went back into the classroom. Ms.Coywen continued the lesson, Flanke tapped George's shoulder and said, "You better not show up to the competition, you are pathetic and you'll just embarrass yourself.". George was really scared but he wasn't going to back out. They spent the rest of class making paper toy humans, but George had a panic attack when the scissors came out.

Ms.Coywen ran to George and asked what was wrong, George pointed to the scissors and she understood and told him to go to the bathroom and by the time he came back they would be done with scissors. He went to the bathroom washed his face and thought about *The Incident*. He got back to class and sat down, he was zoned out for the rest of class thinking about scissors. Class ended and he went to his locker, he opened it and it was filled with scissors, he yelled and fainted. Before he blacked out he heard Flanke, Zombunny, and Kelpie laughing behind him. He couldn't believe his friends would do this to him knowing *The Incident*.

When he was a young monster, before the barber and his wife split, before they knew George's mustache cannot be cut off, the barber's wife sat George down and told him to stay still. She got out scissors and cut off a chunk of his mustache, it started spewing out blood, and it hurt so much, he still had the scar. Ever since then he called it *The Incident*, and was petrified of scissors. He woke up at home and when the barber saw him he ran to him and hugged him. He said he was going to miss the next couple days of school so he could calm down after the panic attack.

George was ok with that but he had the math competition, the barber then said that he can go to the competition and he doesn't need to go to school because he knew everything he needed to know for the competition. "And I don't want to pressure you but there is a new surgery that would let you talk, but it costs a ton of money, so if you win the competition we could get you that." George was shocked, he could start talking, all he had to do was win a competition! The next couple of weeks went by super fast and before he knew it, it was the day of the competition. The barber drove him to the competition and

before he dropped him off and wished him good luck. George knew that today would either be the best or worst day of his life, he walked into the building. He was scared of Flanke but he wouldn't back out, he wanted to talk so badly.

There were a lot of monsters there, he walked to the sign in desk and found out that the monsters would be competing in groups of 20 and the winners of that would go into the finals. When his group competition started he was probably the smartest kid in there, he knew this because he was the only one who passed the quiz. The questions were simple, things like $2+8$ and $6+__=10$. That was the only thing that he had to do. He won and moved onto the finals.

There were 5 kids there, and one of them was Flanke. This time you had to hit the buzzer when the right answer to the problem appeared on the screen. Flanke was seated next to him and everybody was asked to test their buzzer, Flanke hit George's buzzer and said his hand slipped, when he lifted his hand there was a sticker of a pair of bloody scissors, George almost fainted. Flanke put that there so he wouldn't hit the buzzer but he would try so Flanke would hit it and win. George knew he couldn't let Flanke win, so when the competition started and the judges announced there would be 11 questions, George knew he had to get over his fear. Question 1 was really easy, for George, when the answer came on the screen, he knew now or never, he couldn't hesitate. He brought his hand down on the buzzer, and he was so surprised he went through with it, almost as surprised as Flanke. The rest of the questions were a breeze and when they gave him the giant check and trophy proclaiming he won, he had a moment of realization and remembered the surgery.

He was walking past Flanke when he stopped George, he was pretty sure he was going to beat him up, but to his surprise he said, "Congrats, I'm sorry I was being so mean to you about me winning. My mom has cancer and her treatment costs a lot of money, and if I got that prize I could afford it. My dad left us when she got sick, since then I have been working to provide a living for my younger sister. But you won it and I hope you use it wisely." He made one of those sad grins and walked out. George stood there shocked and thought about how hard life must be for Flanke, he thought about what was more important, his happiness or a life. He ran to Flanke and gave him the check. Flanke asked if he was serious and when George nodded he burst into tears and thanked George so much. He knew he did the right thing once he saw Flanke's face as he gave it to him, he saved a life and he didn't care that he wouldn't be able to talk, for the first time in his life.

When the barber came to pick George up he asked if he won, George said yes and the barber was so happy. He said, "We could get you the surgery so you could talk!!!!". George told him the story about Flanke and his mom, then he told the barber he gave the money to Flanke. The barber was a little sad that George wasn't going to get the surgery, but he knew his son did the right thing. George started school again that Monday and for once in his life he wasn't nervous.

When he got to school on Monday, Flanke came up to him and gave him a big hug. He said, "My mom is getting the treatment, and the doctors said it was just in time, any later she would have...". He gave George a big hug again. "My sister wanted to tell you something, come here Cynthia.". He called over a little monster, she looked like Flanke but in a small girly

way, she said, “Tank yu for saving my mommy.”, and then she ran off.

The rest of the year went by very easily, and not once did he regret not being able to talk, he saved a life and a family, and not being able to talk can be good sometimes, he can think to himself without interruptions. His name is George and he is a silent hero, and will always be, by choice.