

*The Monsters are Due on
Maple Street*
by Rod Sterling



Name _____

Period _____

Before Reading Questions

1. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." What does this famous quote mean? Who said it?

2. How does fear affect the decisions that you make?

3. What fears might be called 'universal'; shared by almost all humans?

4. Do you think life exists on other planets in our universe? What makes you think so? Might this life be friendly or hostile?

5. What is a scapegoat?

What turns a crowd into a mob?



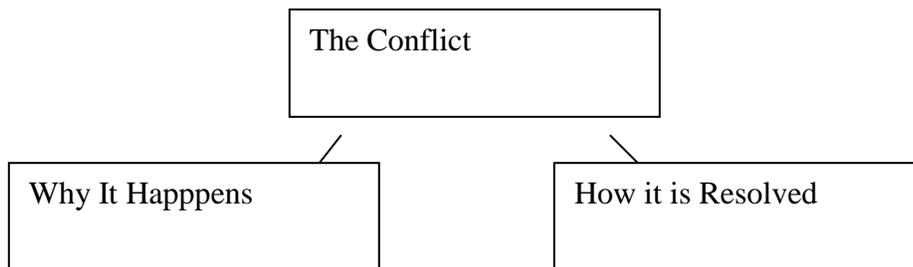
KEY IDEA People in a crowd often act differently than they do when they're alone. In a big group, people might laugh louder, feel braver, or get angrier. Sometimes a crowd can even become dangerous. When it does—as in the teleplay you're about to read—it becomes a **mob**.

DISCUSS With a partner, share stories you may have heard about crowds turning into mobs. Think about how some fans react after a favorite sports team wins a championship or about what can happen when frustrated people take the law into their own hands. Below create a list of things that can turn a crowd into a mob.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Literary Analysis: Conflict in Drama

Like any story, a drama has a plot that centers on a _____ . Since drama is meant to be performed by actors, a drama's conflict usually unfolds through _____ (conversation between characters) and action that you picture taking place on a stage or screen. As you read "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," make notes about the story's conflict in a conflict map like the one shown.



Reading Strategy: Reading a Teleplay

To best understand the dialogue and action in a drama, it's important to read the _____. Stage directions are instructions for the _____, the _____, and the _____. They often appear in italics within parentheses. In a _____, a drama written specifically for television, stage directions also include directions for the camera, such as the following:

The camera moves slowly across the various porches . . .

As you read this teleplay, use all the stage directions to help you imagine the story as it might be presented on television.

Classifying Words- *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street* Vocabulary

A. Directions: Listen for the boldfaced word and clues to its meaning.

1. The boy could sense the **antagonism** of the crowd and tried to locate even one friendly face.
2. Feeling pressured by the crowd, he nodded his **assent**, although he wanted to disagree.
3. Fear **contorted** his face; he was almost unrecognizable.
4. Unaware of the tension, the young boys and girls began **converging** on the ice cream truck in one large group.
5. She showed her **defiant** attitude by refusing to join in their activities.
6. Although there was no evidence that could **incriminate** her, she knew that the crowd could still find her guilty.
7. To think that he could change the mind of the crowd was overly **optimistic** and unrealistic.
8. The **revelation** at the end of the play surprised the viewers, who had no idea what was coming.

B. Directions: Use the boldfaced words from Part A to answer each question. Be prepared to give reasons for your answers.

a. Which words relate to a person's attitude?

b. Which words have to do with movement?

c. Which words have positive connotations?

d. Which word might be associated with a surprise or something unexpected?

e. Which word is associated with the court system and crime?

C. Vocabulary Definitions

Assent	Definition:
Part of speech	

Antagonism	Definition:
Part of speech	

Contorted	Definition:
Part of speech	

Converging	Definition:
Part of speech	

Defiant

Definition:

Part of speech

Incriminate

Definition:

Part of speech

Optimistic

Definition:

Part of speech

Revelation

Definition:

Part of speech

D. Directions: Rod Sterling uses these words to help show the conflict unfolding. Match the vocabulary words to their definitions.

assent	converging	optimistic
antagonism	defiant	revelation
contorted	incriminate	

- a. hopeful about the future; confident _____
- b. willing to stand up to opposition; bold _____
- c. hostility; resistance _____
- d. something made known _____
- e. agreement _____
- f. to cause to appear guilty _____
- g. twisted or pulled out of shape _____
- h. moving toward one point _____

THE MONSTERS ARE DUE ON MAPLE STREET

Question Support: Literary Analysis

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. Recall When do the neighbors first sense something is wrong?

2. Clarify How is Pete Van Horn killed?

3. Clarity Why do the neighbors become suspicious of Tommy?

4. Identify Conflict The main conflict in this drama is _____

This conflict shows that most of the characters are _____

5. Analyze the Teleplay Which of the following kinds of information do you find in this drama's stage directions:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ___ a. what characters say | ___ c. what characters do |
| ___ b. how the camera moves | ___ d. what scenes look like |

Describe how stage directions help you visualize one of the scenes.

6. Analyze Foreshadowing Near the beginning of this drama, the narrator says that monsters came to Maple Street. This is an example of **foreshadowing**, a hint about something that will occur later in a story. Why do you think the writer used this foreshadowing?

7. Draw Conclusions The mob accuses different people.

The mob first turns on Les Goodman because _____
_____.

Next, the mob turns on Steve Brand because _____
_____.

Then, the mob turns on Pete Van Horn because _____
_____.

The mob turned on each of these people because _____
_____.

8. Make Judgments I think that the monsters in the title are _____
_____.

One reason I feel this way is _____
_____.

THE MONSTERS ARE DUE ON MAPLE STREET

Literary Analysis

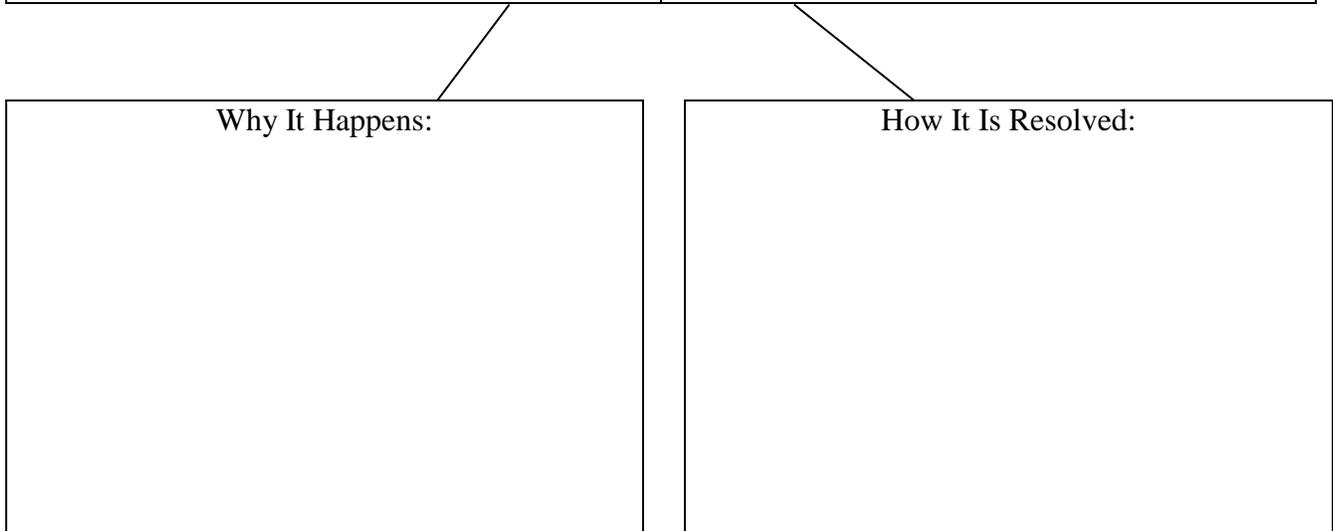
CONFLICT IN DRAMA

A drama has a plot that centers on a **conflict**, or opposing forces. The conflict in a drama develops through two key elements:

- **Dialogue:** The conversation between characters often reveals conflict. Notice when characters disagree or criticize each other. Try to identify the conflict that creates these opposing views.
- **Action:** The events that take place in the drama, whether on stage or screen, can also reveal strong conflicts. These conflicts might be between one character and another person or a force of nature.

Directions: Use this conflict map to make notes about the story's conflict.

Type of Conflict ----- vs -----	Explain the conflict.
1.	
2.	
3.	



The Monsters are Due on Maple Street Acting Roles

Act One

Narrator-
Steve-
Don-
Mrs. Brand-
Woman-
Voice One-
Voice Two-
Voice Three-
Van Horn-
Charlie-
Tommy-
Sally (Tommy's Mother)-
Man One-
Goodman-

Act Two

Sally-
Charlie-
Goodman-
Steve-
Mrs. Goodman-
Don-
Mrs. Brand-
Woman-
Voice One-
Voice Two-
Voice Three-
Man One-
Man Two-
Figure One-
Figure Two-
Narrator-

Reading Check- The Monsters are Due on Maple Street

Directions: Recall the events from Rod Sterling’s teleplay, *The Monsters are Due on Maple Street*. Then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What do the people of Maple Street see just before they notice the electronic failure?

2. Why does Tommy think monsters shut all of the electronics off?

3. What do the neighbors conclude after Les Goodman’s car starts by itself?

4. Why does Charlie shoot Pete Van Horn?

5. Who turns out to be responsible for the electronic failures on Maple Street?

The Monsters are Due on Maple Street Study Guide

1. At the opening of a teleplay, the _____ describes where and when a teleplay takes place.	1.
2. Figure One and Figure Two reveal that they were responsible for causing the blackout in _____.	2.
3. Who believes that that power outage was caused by the aliens?	3.
4. All of the neighbors on Maple Street are involved in the _____ that develops throughout the teleplay.	4.
5. At the end of the teleplay, the people of Maple Street _____.	5.
6. hopeful about the future; confident	6.
7. willing to stand up to opposition; bold	7.
8. hostility	8.
9. something make known	9.
10. agreement	10.
11. to cause to appear guilty	11.
12. twisted or pulled out of shape	12.
13. moving toward one point	13.
14. Charlie shoots Pete Van Horn because _____.	14.
15. The teleplay illustrates the point that conquest is described a specific way in the story. You will need to identify how this point is proven in the story.	
16. Know why the beginning of the story is more than just a power failure.	

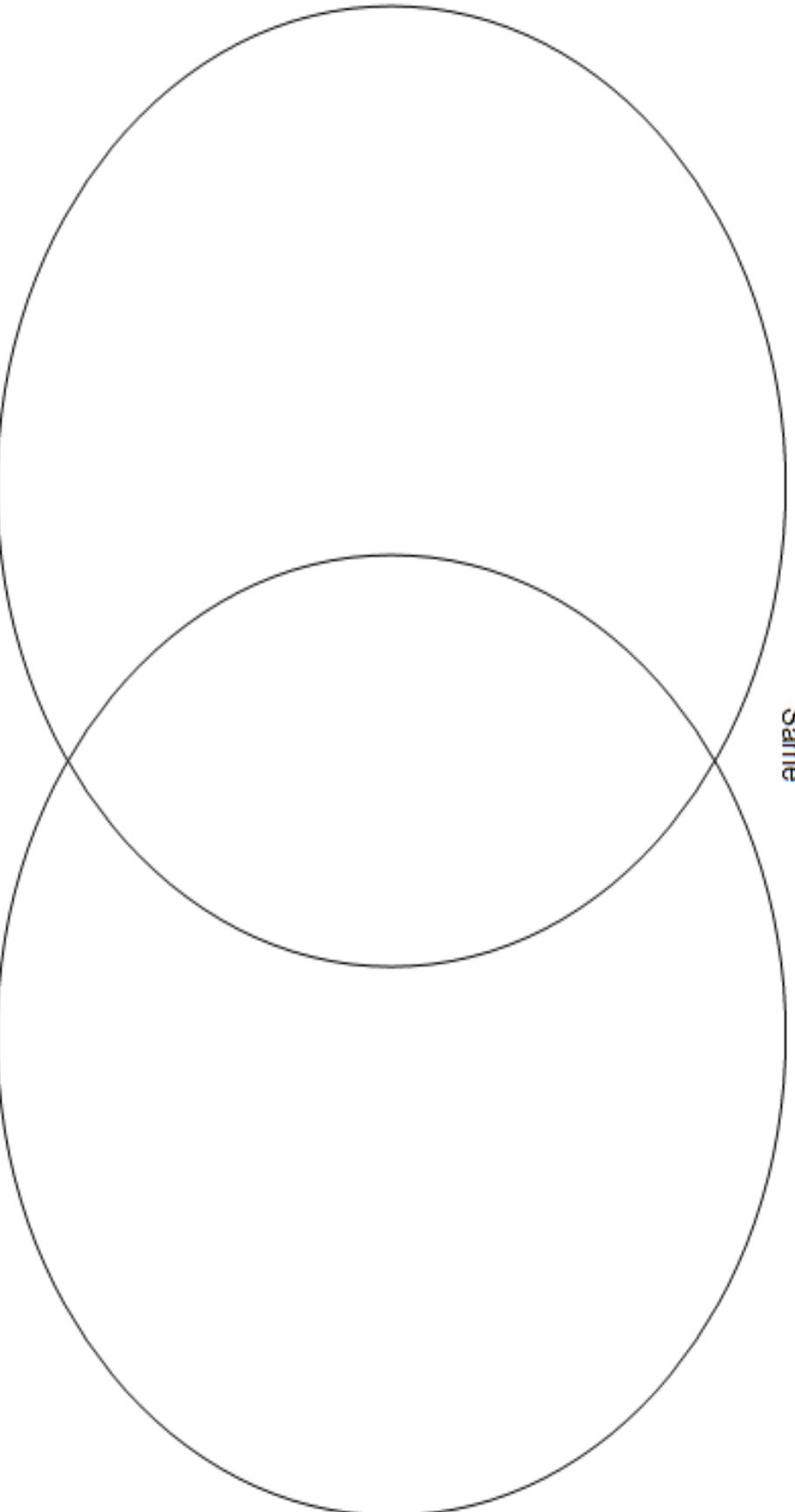
Name _____

Period _____

"Monsters..." -Teleplay

"Monsters..." -Youtube

Venn Diagram



You must have at least 5 thoughts in each section!

Different

Different