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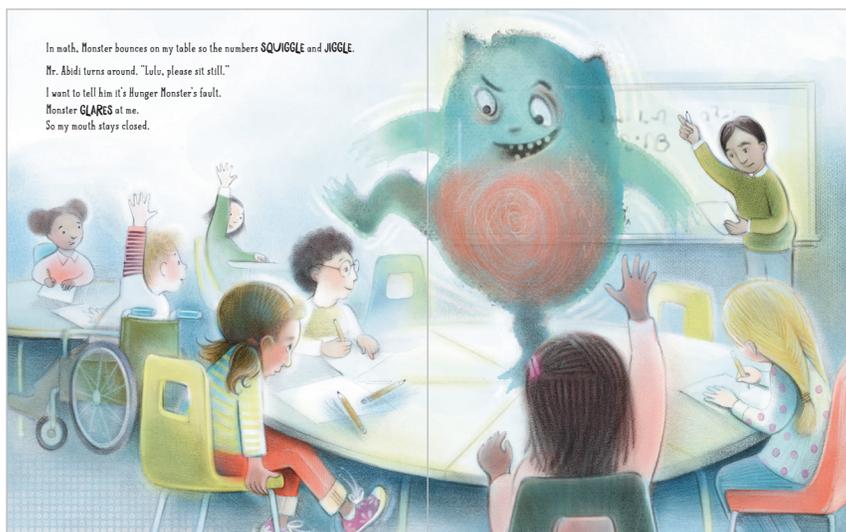
Meeting kids' social, emotional, and educational needs since 1983®

Lulu and the Hunger Monster™

by Erik Talkin, illustrated by Sheryl Murray

Lulu's story personalizes the struggles of children experiencing food insecurity and hunger

When Lulu's mother's van breaks down, money for food becomes tight and Hunger Monster comes into their lives. Only visible to Lulu, Hunger Monster is a troublemaker who makes it hard for her to concentrate in school. How will Lulu help her mom and defeat Monster when Lulu has promised never to speak its name to anyone?



In math, Monster bounces on my table so the numbers SQUIGGLE and JIGGLE.
Mr. Abidi turns around. "Lulu, please sit still."
I want to tell him it's Hunger Monster's fault.
Monster GLARES at me.
So my mouth stays closed.

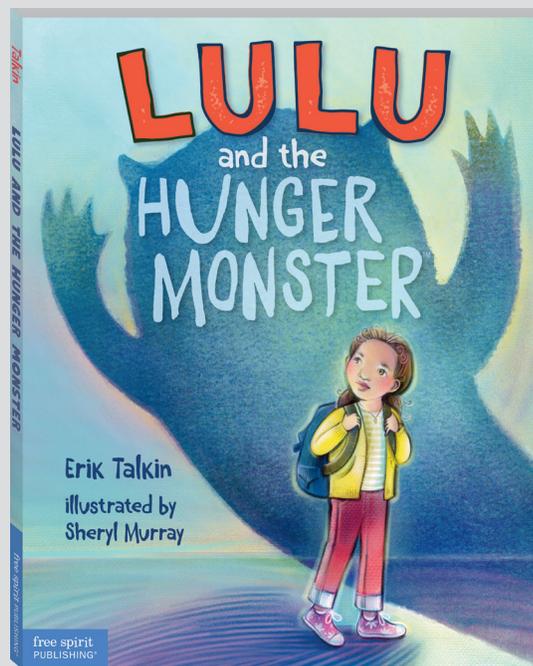
Selling Points

- Author has used his knowledge as the CEO of the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County to craft a respectful, realistic—and hopeful—story of food insecurity and how to get help
- Helps people recognize food insecurity and hunger, as it isn't always obvious and is more prevalent than many children and even adults realize
- Addresses the impact of hunger on a child's ability to learn
- Can be used with students to teach social justice issues and destigmatize the issue of hunger

Erik Talkin, writer, filmmaker, and CEO of the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, is a recognized innovator and leader in America's food bank network. He authored *Hunger into Health* and has helped create innovative, national-award-winning children's nutrition education programs such as Healthy School Pantry and Kid's Farmers Market. Erik lives in Santa Barbara, California.

Sheryl Murray lives in Portland, Oregon, where she illustrates books for kids, makes up funny voices for her cats, and occasionally banishes a tricky monster of her own with the help of her two brave girls. Learn more about Sheryl and her work at sherylmurray.com/portfolio.

Juvenile Fiction/Social Justice/Poverty
Ages 5–9



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Free leader's guide will be available at freespirit.com/leader.

Galley coming April 2020

Companions/Will Sell Like

- *Maddi's Fridge*, 978-1-936261-29-1
- *A Different Pond*, 978-1-62370-803-0
- *I'm Happy-Sad Today*, 978-1-63198-305-4
- *Jamie Is Jamie*, 978-1-63198-139-5

"In this story illustrating the reality of childhood hunger and food insecurity, Lulu invites kids into her world to help them understand what it's like to battle the Hunger Monster. *Lulu and the Hunger Monster* delivers the right message at the right time, helping readers recognize the problem of childhood hunger and moving them to find solutions."

—Jeff Bridges, actor and anti-hunger advocate