

Keyword	Definition
Still-image	A frozen picture which communicates meaning
Ensemble	A group of actors who perform together
Symbolic	Something which stands for, or represents something else (EG. A white coat represents medicine)
Abstract	A style of theatre which focuses on representing themes and emotions rather than acting them out in a naturalistic style.
Episodic	The narrative is divided into distinctive sections, like episodes
Transitions	Movement between one scene or moment to the next
Canon	Where dialogue, gesture or movement is repeated by an individual or group, one after the other, usually with some overlap
Choral	When two or more people say or do the same thing together, at the same time (unison)
Flashback	Interrupting the chronological order of the main narrative to take the audience back in time to past events in a character's life
Motif	A symbolic image or idea that appears frequently during a performance
Dramatic Intention	Decisions made by the creators on the messages they want to convey in their work

**Characters:**  
 Conor O'Malley  
 The Monster (Yew Tree)  
 Conor's Mum  
 Conor's Grandma  
 Conor's Dad  
 Lily (School friend)  
 Harry (School bully)  
 Anton and Sully (school bullies)

### Summary of the play:

- Conor's mum is dying of cancer and he is having a recurring dream at 12:07am every night.
- Conor's dad has moved to America with his new wife. Conor's grandma sometimes has to look after him—but they don't get on so well.
- Conor is getting bullied at school and starts to lose his friends.
- The yew tree outside Conor's window becomes a monster each night (12:07am) and tells him three stories where the good guys turn out to be the bad guys and vice versa.
- Conor begins to act out the monster's stories in real life. He destroys his grandma's living room and beats up the school bully. Conor only realizes after the monster leaves and he wakes up.
- Conor believes that the yew tree is there to help heal his mum—the doctors have given her a cancer medicine that's made from yew trees. Unfortunately, this medicine doesn't work.
- Conor's mum has been unable to get better and it is clear that she only has a few hours left.
- The monster asks Conor for the fourth story, his truth. We see Conor and his mum by a cliff, his mum begins to fall, Conor grabs her hands, but he is not strong enough to pull her back up and he lets go.
- The monster tells Conor to 'let go' as it is the best thing he can do.
- Conor wakes up to see his mum before she passes, at 12:07am.

**DRAMATIC TECHNIQUES:  
 A MONSTER CALLS  
 BY PATRICK NESS**