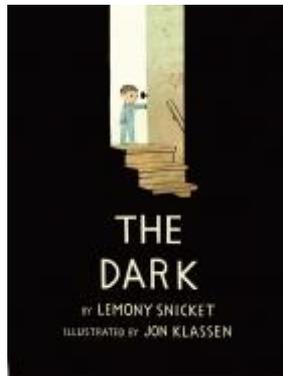# Lamont Books Standing Order

Teacher Notes and Activities

The Dark
By Lemony Snicket & Illustrated Jon Klassen
ISBN 9781408330029
$24.99

Two bestselling, world-renowned talents of children's literature come together for the first time to bring you a universal and empowering story about conquering fear of the dark.

Laszlo is afraid of the dark. The dark lives in the same house as Laszlo but mostly it spends its time in the basement. It doesn't visit Laszlo in his room. Until one night it does. With emotional insight and poetic economy, Lemony Snicket and Jon Klassen bring to light a universal and empowering story about conquering fear. Join a brave boy on his journey to meet the dark, and see why it will never bother him again.

Themes:
- Overcoming Fear
- The Dark

Discussion Points:
- Do you sometimes feel like Laszlo did about 'the dark'?
- What is it about 'the dark' that people are often afraid of?
- There might be other things that worry you, not just 'the dark'. As a class, come up with a list of things that are part of our everyday life that we might be afraid of. Can you think up some ways that you can overcome these fears?
- How did Laszlo overcome his fear? What characteristics did he show when confronting 'the dark'?
- Did that fact he talked to 'the dark' help? Explain.
- 'Without a cupboard, you would have nowhere to put your shoes, and without a shower curtain, you would splash water all over the bathroom, and without the dark, everything would be light, an you would never know if you needed a lightbulb.' Do you think this sort of reasoning could help you overcome your fears? ie: everything is there for a purpose, you just have to think differently about things. Explore this idea as a class group.
- How can confronting a fear allow us to overcome it?

Activities:
- Create a list of other things that wouldn't happen without something else being there, like the ones in the story, ie; without a creaky roof, the rain would fall on your head. See how many you can think of.