

## THE BOOGEYMAN WILL GET YOU IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT!

Almost every culture in the world has some sort of imaginary creature invented to frighten children into obeying their parents. The Métis people of Canada tell of a scary, wolf-like creature that eats children who misbehave. The word “Roogaroo” comes from “loup garou,” the French word for werewolf. The idea of a giant, human-eating wolf is pretty scary – in English or French.

In many Spanish-speaking countries, parents warn children that “El Coco” will get them if they don’t go to sleep. Coco is a ghost with a pumpkin head. In fact, *coco* is often used as a slang word for head.

Often, the creature is described as a man dressed all in black. He hides under beds or in dark corners. Italian parents sometimes knock under the table and pretend someone is at the door. They sing, “Here comes l’uomo nero! He is looking for a child who won’t eat his dinner!”

But the boogeyman is not always a man. In some parts of China, it’s an old witch named “Ou-wu” who kidnaps naughty children. In Iceland, a female troll named Gryla eats bad children on Christmas Eve. And Russian children are warned that Baba Yaga will come for them at night if they misbehave.

The Inuit people of the Arctic tell tales of the Qalupalik. These are creatures with long nails and long hair that live in the sea. The Qalupalik are said to take children who wander away to live with them underwater.

Do you believe these stories or not? Are there really creatures just waiting to steal naughty children or is it just old people telling tales to scare kids? You’d better listen to your parents – just in case.

## BOOGEYMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Use the organizer below to record the information from the article on the other page. Then do some research to add a few more creatures from other places. You might even want to add pictures of them and look up their locations on a map of the world.

COUNTRY	CREATURE'S NAME	WHAT IT DOES