



The Princess in Black

by Shannon Hale
and Dean Hale

Recommended Ages:

6–8

Summary: Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Princess Magnolia need to keep her superhero identity a secret? What do you think would happen if someone discovered her secret?
2. How do you think the hole to Monster Land first appeared?
3. What kind of training do you think the Princess in Black needs so she can defend her kingdom from the monsters?
4. What are some similarities between the way Princess Magnolia and the Princess in Black behave? What are some differences?
5. Why do you think the duchess says that everyone knows princesses don't wear black? Do you agree with her?

Activities:

- Create your own superhero identities. What would your superhero names be? What would your superhero powers be? What would your disguises look like? Do you have archenemies? Faithful sidekicks?
- After discussing, draw yourself as a superhero. Share your picture with the group.

Adapted from Candlewick Press.