

Tales and Tellings

Conor O'Malley's mother is very ill. She is dying, and Conor is having recurring nightmares.

One night at 12.07 a monster calls him and appears outside his window. Conor watches the yew tree in the garden turn into a huge monster.

At school, Conor is being bullied by Harry and his gang, and his friendship with Lily is damaged because she told everyone about his mother's illness.

The monster appears again and tells Conor the first story, about the wicked queen.

Conor's father comes over to visit from America.

The monster appears again and tells Conor the second story, about the apothecary and the parson.

Conor wrecks his grandma's living room, damaging all the furniture and ornaments.

The monster appears again and tells Conor the third story, about the invisible man.

Conor beats up Harry so badly that Harry is hospitalised. But he is not punished because the school knows he is having a tough time with his mum's illness.

