

Monster Realm: Student Exchange Program

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A Realm of Monsters

A portal has appeared in our world that leads to a realm of monsters! The environment is deemed safe, the natives peaceful, and ambassadors exchanged. Now a foreign exchange student program has been struck up between the two realms, and you're one of the chosen few to go first! While attending school, you'll be asked to record a journal about the different interactions you have with the other students and the different relationships you develop.

What is This?

Monster Realm: Student Exchange Program is a solo journaling game about meeting people very different from you and reflecting on the reasons for the types of relationships you have with them. Each round is equivalent to a single month, and you'll attend school for a year. All you need is a deck of playing cards (Jokers removed) and a way to record your journaling.

Character Creation

Write down the name of your character and a description of them, both for physical and personality. Now make their first journal entry. Feel free to use one or more of the prompts below.

What was their old school like? Why did they sign up to be in the exchange program? What does their family think about them leaving for the year? What are they looking forward to the most in the new school? What are they most anxious about?

Record these and any other thoughts your character might have as their first journal entry. This lays down the foundation of who you're playing as. As you play, "You" refers to your character.

Play Out the School Year

For each month starting in September, draw 1-4 cards, depending on how long of a game you want. Compare it to the Numbers list and choose 1 of 2 Monster options. Roll 3d6 and compare the 3 results to the Adjectives Lists on the next page. Those are 3 ways the student can be described. Record the results, then compare the Suit of the card with the Relationships list to see what kind of relationship the two of you have and choose one or more prompts there to write about your interactions and relationships with the Monster. Remember, students interact with each other, so feel free to use those connections with the prompts. There's no need to answer all the prompts listed. Just stick with the ones you find the most fun. If you think of other things, feel free to write those, too. After you're done, discard the cards and draw for the next month.

Vacation Time!

Remember that school's out in December for Winter Break, April for Spring Break, and August for Summer Break. Choose 1 student to spend the Break with and make an entry about the trip.

Why choose that student, and who asked who? How was the trip there? Were there specific accommodations that had to be made for you? How did their family react? Did you learn anything new about the student and their customs for this time of year? Did anything change in your relationship with the student by the time the two of you returned to school?

Is That the Same Number?

If you get the same number twice, you can decide if you want to use the same student as before or a different student. If you're going with the same student, describe how your relationship has changed with the different suit, and the events that led up to it. If it's a different student, choose the creature that hasn't been used before and roll for Adjectives.

If you get the same number a third time, use the option you haven't yet used. If you get it a fourth time, choose the one you've known the longest and apply the prompts under King for that card, using the suit of that card as your relationship now that they're leaving.

What Happens After the School Year

After you record your relationships for August, take a moment to reflect on your school year. Feel free to use the following prompts in your last entry.

Is there anyone you're going to miss? Anyone you're going to be happy to get away from? Anyone you're going to try to find some way to keep in touch with? Any that you regret? Will you try to enroll for next year's Student Exchange Program?

Of course, you're not expected to leave without saying goodbye. Include in your last entry how it goes when you say goodbye to the students you've come to know over this time, and maybe even make plans for meeting in the future.

Adjectives - 3d6

1 - Sarcastic	1 - Selfless	1 - Sleepy
2 - Sweet	2 - Stunning	2 - Spirited
3 - Smart	3 - Self-reliant	3 - Strong
4 - Sporty	4 - Shy	4 - Speedy
5 - Spooky	5 - Sincere	5 - Stylish
6 - Shrewd	6 - Shaggy	6 - Steadfast

Numbers - Monsters

- A - Kitsune ~or~ Fairy
- 2 - Werewolf ~or~ Vampire
- 3 - Zombie ~or~ Ghost
- 4 - Phoenix ~or~ Changeling
- 5 - Angel ~or~ Demon
- 6 - Goblin ~or~ Kobold
- 7 - Dragonling ~or~ Griffin
- 8 - Lamia ~or~ Merperson
- 9 - Centaur ~or~ Dullahan
- 10 - Dryad ~or~ Pixie

J - Your relationship with the last Monster changes to this suit. Describe the events that lead up to the change. *Was it something they did? Something you said? Other people's impressions of them? If it was already in this suit, what reinforces the type of relationship you have with them?*

Q - Your relationship with the last Monster changes to this suit. Describe the events that lead up to the change. *Was it something they did? Something you said? Other people's impressions of them? If it was already in this suit, what reinforces the type of relationship you have with them?*

K - A Monster you have already met has been approved to move to our realm. *What kind of sendoff do you give them? How do you feel about them leaving? What sort of advice do you offer, if any?* The next time you encounter this Monster type, it's a completely different individual.

Suits - Relationships

♥ **Hearts - Best of Friends** - They're more like family than just a friend. Someone you can share everything with, and who shares everything with you. *How did you meet? What similarities have made you so close? What differences? Are any of them related to what they are? What about who they are? What's your favorite thing about them?*

♠ **Spades - Enemies** - Someone you just don't get along with for some reason. Every time you see each other, it puts both of you in a bad mood. *What happened to make you feel this way about them? Was it anything about what they are, or is it something they said or did? Was it something you said or did to them, or something said or done to a mutual friend? Or is it something others have said about them? Do you think there's any chance for you two to reconcile?*

♦ **Diamonds - Friends** - They might not be your best friend, but that doesn't mean you don't get along well with them. *What sparked your friendship? Is it because of something you have in common with them, or something different? Did a mutual friend introduce you? What kept you from being best friends? Is it because of something that was said or done? Do you think you'll ever feel closer to them?*

♣ **Clubs - Frienemies** - It's this odd relationship somewhere between Friends and Enemies. Sometimes it's due to competitiveness, other times it's differing opinions that make it more fun to bicker over things rather than agree. *Which is it for the two of you? If the latter, what's your favorite thing to compete with them in? If the former, what's your favorite topic to debate with them? Do you think you two will ever agree on anything? Are there other students who get into these competitions or debates?*

Alternative Timing

If an entry every month seems like a few too many entries, then try writing an entry for every Quarter - 3 months - or Trimester - 4 months. If you're writing per Quarter, draw 3-13 Monsters, however many feel the most comfortable. If you decide to include Vacation Time, consider drawing your Monsters before Vacation so you'll have more to choose from. Then start with Winter Break in the second Quarter, then Spring in the third Quarter, and Summer in the fourth Quarter. You can decide if they get added into the entry or as a separate entry. If you're writing per Trimester, draw 4-7 Monsters. You can also include a Vacation for every Trimester, again added either into the entry or as a separate entry.

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