C. J. McGuire BOOKS

Read it. Wonder. Try a word.

A companion for the picture book, now in illustrated reader review. The case-file activity on page 2 also works without the book.

Before you read

Read the book's grown-up note silently to yourself first, not aloud to the children. Check that monster pictures and sounds suit your listeners. Start quietly, allow time to inspect pictures and pause between "Suspicious" and "Very suspicious." Joining in is optional; quiet listening counts.

After the story: a few good noises

AWOOOOOO! A pretend howl: curious, then sleepy.
OOOOOOOW! A pretend "ow": a quick response to an imagined bump.
Grrrr... Your softest, silliest growl.
Let the howl and "ow" sound related but distinct: stretch the howl; make the "ow" more sudden. Agree on a comfortable volume. No shouting or sudden scares. A face, a gesture or listening is welcome.

Ask the little detectives

What did Penelope notice, and what did she think it meant? What do the pictures add? Could the same clue have another explanation? Did your idea change?

Words worth trying

Puzzled: unsure what something means. **Peculiar:** unusual or unexpected. **Suspicious:** thinking something may not be what it seems. Welcome questions. Pick one word, enjoy its sound and try it in a new sentence. More words: cjmcguirebooks.com/my-dad-the-werewolf/#words.

Try a case of your own

Choose a safe everyday object or a picture with a grown-up. Use page 2 to draw a clue, make a first guess, then try another explanation. Draw, point or dictate. Investigate objects, not people's appearance; keep pretend traps on the page.

Printing: Letter: actual size; A4: "Fit." Print only page 2 for the activity. Plain paper works, too.

Free noncommercial home, classroom and library use, including closed class platforms. Keep the credit and website link. For public sharing, link to the resource page. This permission covers the companion, not the full book or recorded readings.

Companion to My Dad the Werewolf. Book illustrations are AI-generated under C. J. McGuire's creative direction; manuscript adaptation and editorial development also used AI tools. Revised October 2026.

Free 30-minute introductory workshop
Live on Zoom: the whole book + voices + a turn directing C. J.
Adults: cjmcguirebooks.com/visit
Subject to availability. School/library groups; a teacher or librarian hosts.
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Your turn, detective.



Draw something ordinary that looks mysterious.
What do you think it could be?

Draw, point or tell. A grown-up can write your words.

THE CLUE

My first guess:

Another explanation:

A good detective can change their mind.