

The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street

Question: Choose one of the themes below and explain how Rod Serling illustrates that theme in his teleplay, “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street.” Use specific and relevant evidence from the play to support your answer.

- Prejudice can be as dangerous as any weapon
- Fear can turn human beings into monsters
- When we let prejudice and suspicion control us, we become our own worst enemy

The theme “Fear can turn human beings into monsters” is expressed flawlessly and clearly in this play. At the start of the play, a blast of screeching sound and illuminating light descends from the sky. It strikes fear and terror into the hearts and minds of the people on Maple Street. They assume, with barely any proof, that it is a meteor. As fear engulfs them, a theory is given, by just a child, that there are aliens, and that they are disguised as humans on Maple Street. In their desperation for some sort of explanation, they believe him. They instantly begin accusing their neighbors, who were once their friends. The terror of this foreign invasion causes them to go to such extremes as believing their friends to be aliens, determined to overtake planet Earth. The peaceful members of suburbia transform into a bloodthirsty mob of monsters, all because they are scared of a mere possibility. The fear drives them so mad, that one of the people, Charlie, kills another human, because of the slight chance he could be an alien. The fear pushes people so far that a person would end someone’s life out of horror. It’s monstrous. That is how this theme is expressed in “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street.”