

Name: _____

A Monster out of a Molehill

by Neal Levin

One morning when Dominick woke up, his eyeglasses were missing. He was certain he'd put them safely on his bedside table as any mole who wore eyeglasses would do. Then he remembered he might have left them outside last night after gazing at stars. Or maybe by the pond when he took them off for an evening dip. In fact, they could be anywhere.



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was following him. It waved its sturdy arms and wiggled its long, sharp claws. Dominick forced himself up and scooted onward.

After a few moments, he stopped to catch his breath. He stole a glance at the creature. Were there two heads? Three heads? He couldn't tell. Nor did he care to stay and count. He hustled forth again.

The monster was approaching quickly. Dominick saw it had big, squiggly tentacles coming out of its long, pointy snout. And it was shouting his name.

"Dominick," it yelled, "let me catch up to you."

"No!" Dominick cried. He ran even faster but slipped on a rock and stumbled face-first into a puddle of mud. The monster was almost upon him. Dominick couldn't bear it any longer. He sat up and covered his face, only allowing himself to peek between his fingers. The monster's arm was reaching forward, and there was something in its hand.



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Dominick gave a sigh of relief. He realized his buddy was just looking out for him. It couldn't have been any clearer.

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1. When Dominick discovers his eyeglasses are missing from his bedside table, he thinks about where they could be.

Place a check mark (☑) next to each place where Dominick thinks his eyeglasses could be.

- Outside, where he was gazing at the stars
- By the pond, where he went for an evening dip
- Near the oak tree, where he sat in the shade
- Anywhere



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4. Who is the second character in the story? _____

5. The last sentence of the story, "It couldn't have been any clearer," has two different meanings. Explain what they are.

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Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. e _ e _ _ a _ s e _

hint: lenses you wear to help you see clearer

2. _ o _ e

hint: a small burrowing mammal



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hint: clear view

6. _ e _ i e _

hint: a feeling of ease after being tensed
or worried

7. t e _ t a _ l e _

hint: flexible limbs

8. p o _ _ _

hint: a covered sitting area in front of a house

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In the story "A Monster out of a Molehill," Dominick is scared of something he can't see clearly. When he puts on his eyeglasses, he realizes he didn't need to be scared after all.



On the lines below, tell about a time when you were scared of something. Why were you afraid? Did anything help you to overcome your fear?



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ANSWER KEY

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1. When Dominick discovers his eyeglasses are missing from his bedside table, he thinks about where they could be.

Place a check mark () next to each place where Dominick thinks his eyeglasses could be.

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trying to help him.

ANSWER KEY

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8. p o r c h

porch

hint: a covered sitting area in front of a house