

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.



Dominick climbed out of his molehill and looked around. He didn't find his eyeglasses. But what he did find was a terrible, hairy monster bursting out of the next molehill over, and it was charging right toward him!

What could be worse? Without his eyeglasses, Dominick couldn't even tell what kind of monster this was, but it looked like something he had never seen before. Dominick started running, but he stumbled and tripped over a tree root. The monster 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.

"My eyeglasses," Dominick said.

He took them and placed them on carefully, as any mole who wore eyeglasses would do, and the monster came into focus. Only it wasn't a monster at all. It was his star-nosed friend Sebastian.

"I found these on your porch last night and I didn't want anything to happen to them," he said.

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



2. When Dominick climbs out of his molehill, does he find his glasses right away? What does he find?

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3. At the end of the story, what does Dominick discover he is running away from?

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_ \_ \_ a n \_ \_ e

**hint:** a quick look

\_\_\_\_\_

4. s \_ \_ o u \_ \_

**hint:** the nose and mouth of an animal

\_\_\_\_\_

5. f o \_ \_ u \_ \_

**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

\_\_\_\_\_



## 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.

- 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



2. When Dominick climbs out of his molehill, does he find his glasses right away? What does he find?

No. He finds a terrible, hairy monster charging at him from the next molehill.

3. At the end of the story, what does Dominick discover he is running away from?

Dominick realizes he is running away from his friend.

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

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

First, Dominick can see clearly because he has his eyeglasses on.

Second, Dominick sees that there was no need to be afraid because his friend was only trying to help him.

## ANSWER KEY

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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 y e g l a s s e s eyeglasses  
**hint:** lenses you wear to help you see clearer
2. m o l e mole  
**hint:** a small burrowing mammal
3. g l a n c e glance  
**hint:** a quick look
4. s n o u t snout  
**hint:** the nose and mouth of an animal
5. f o c u s focus  
**hint:** clear view
6. r e l i e f relief  
**hint:** a feeling of ease after being tensed or worried
7. t e n t a c l e s tentacles  
**hint:** flexible limbs
8. p o r c h porch  
**hint:** a covered sitting area in front of a house