

# The Magic Glasses

by Rebecca White



Violet had always worn glasses, for as long as she could remember. Being ten years old, it was possible she'd been wearing them for ten years. Maybe she was born with glasses!

Violet couldn't see things that were far away from her, but she also had trouble reading. Her eyesight was very poor.

Sometimes, while she was doing her homework in study hall, her glasses would slide down to the tip of her nose. Once, they even fell off her face and landed on the floor.

"Violet, what's going on?" her teacher, Mrs. Shellsworth, asked when she saw Violet crawling on the floor once with her hands stretched out.

"I can't find my glasses," replied Violet, shyly. The rest of the students looked up from their books and started to laugh.

When Violet found the brown specs behind her desk, she quickly put them back onto her face. But they wouldn't stay on; they were broken.

Not wanting to draw any more attention to herself, Violet held her glasses onto her face with her index finger and pretended to read.

That night, she told her mother what had happened.

"We're going to have to get you new glasses," she said, sternly. Violet's mother was a doctor, and she worked long hours. When she came home, she was often too tired to do much of anything other than watch television with Violet. Her father didn't live with her. He'd moved out of the house when Violet was just a little girl. She visited her father on weekends, though. He lived in a nearby town and always took her to baseball games in the summer.

But it wasn't summer yet. Violet still had three months left of school, and that meant three more months of being made fun of because of her silly loose glasses.

Violet hated her glasses.

The day after her glasses had fallen to the floor, Violet's mother took her to the eye doctor. They did all sorts of tests to see whether she needed a new prescription. After the tests, which showed that her eyes had gotten worse since the last time she'd been there, it was time to pick out new glasses frames.

Violet looked at the shiny glass case that was almost as tall as she was. There were boring brown frames and simple black frames. But there were also some pink and blue frames, and even some sparkly yellow frames.

"Mom, can I get those?" Violet said, pointing to the sparkly yellow frames.

"No, you cannot. Those glasses are not appropriate for school," said her mother tersely.

"But..." said Violet.

"No 'buts.' You will get these frames right here," said her mother, pointing to some round gray glasses that Violet hadn't even noticed.

Violet was sad, but there was no use arguing with her mother. She was stuck with the gray frames.

Still, Violet wasn't about to put them on right away. She decided to pout, instead, all the way home.

The next day was a Saturday. It was raining hard, and Violet wouldn't have gone outside if her father weren't coming to take her to the movies.

"You all ready, Bug?" her dad asked, when he came to pick her up. He always called her Bug. "Where are your glasses?" he asked, when he saw her squinting up at him.

"I got new ones," said Violet. Worried that her father wouldn't like them, she'd put them in her backpack and was going to wear them in the dark theater where she knew no one could see them.

"Well, where are they?" he said.

Violet, not wanting to cause a scene, reached into her bag and put the round gray frames onto her face. She didn't like them and was hoping maybe she could convince her dad to buy her new ones.

On the way to the movie theater, she noticed something very strange while peering through her new glasses. Way in the distance, a small bird was smiling at her. Flapping its wings and smiling.

*That can't be right*, she thought. Then she looked around and noticed that other birds were making faces as well. A pigeon in a tree almost a mile away looked as if it had smelled something strange; its beak was twisted to the side as if in disgust. Then, on the sidewalk near a park they were approaching, she could see a squirrel sneeze, rub its nose, then move its lips as if to say, "Excuse me!"

Immediately, she pulled the glasses off of her face, in shock.

"What's wrong?" asked her father.

But Violet didn't want to say what she had seen. Were animals supposed to be so animated? Were these magical glasses?

She didn't know, but one thing was for sure: she'd never seen such things before in her life, and she wanted to see more.

Slowly, she put the glasses back on. They were almost at the movie theater, so she made sure to look at as many trees as possible in search of more squirrels, more birds, and more little creatures.

Pushing her face up against the car window to her right, she started to stare intently and noticed a man walking his dog. The man was walking slowly, playing with his cell phone while his white poodle was pulling hard on its leash. Violet started to focus on the poodle, and she could have sworn she saw the pet roll its eyes and shake its head.

"Hurry up!" she said loudly, as her car went by the man with the cell phone. "Your dog is getting bored!"

"Excuse me?" said her father. "Who are you yelling at?"

"Oh, nothing," said Violet. Her new glasses were her little secret, for now. And she couldn't wait to explore the world through a new set of eyes!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Violet visits the eye doctor after her glasses break. What happens when she visits the eye doctor?

- A. She refuses to do eye tests.
- B. She breaks her new pair of glasses.
- C. The doctor gives her medicine for her eyes.
- D. She gets a new pair of glasses.

2. When in the story does Violet want to wear her glasses?

- A. at the beginning of the story
- B. in the middle of the story
- C. at the end of the story
- D. at the beginning and the end of the story

3. Violet hated her old glasses.

What sentence from the story provides a clue about why Violet feels this way?

- A. "Violet couldn't see things that were far away from her, but she also had trouble reading."
- B. "Violet still had three months left of school, and that meant three more months of being made fun of because of her silly loose glasses."
- C. "It was raining hard, and Violet wouldn't have gone outside if her father weren't coming to take her to the movies."
- D. "Violet started to focus on the poodle, and she could have sworn she saw the pet roll its eyes and shake its head."

4. How does Violet feel about her glasses at the end of the story?

- A. angry
- B. excited
- C. upset
- D. sad

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A. a girl whose feelings about wearing glasses change after she gets a new pair that lets her see facial expressions on animals
- B. a girl who goes on a trip to the eye doctor with her mother and gets upset when she is not allowed to choose new glasses with sparkly yellow frames
- C. a pair of glasses that slide down to the tip of a girl's nose and finally break after falling off her face
- D. a pair of glasses that a girl has to hold against her face after she finds them lying broken on the floor behind her desk

6. Read the following sentences: "Violet had always worn glasses, for as long as she could remember. Being ten years old, it was possible she'd been wearing them for ten years.

**Maybe she was born with glasses!"**

Why does the author write, "**Maybe she was born with glasses!"**

- A. The author is making a joke to show readers how long Violet feels like she has been wearing glasses.
- B. The author is describing what Violet felt like on the day that she was born to show readers how unhappy she is.
- C. The author is including a detail to help readers understand what it would be like to have the name "Violet."
- D. The author is providing a summary of all the events in the story to help readers keep track of them.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Violet puts on her new glasses \_\_\_\_\_ her dad asks where they are.

- A. after
- B. although
- C. before
- D. like

8. What is the first strange thing Violet notices after she puts on her new glasses?

9. At the end of the story, Violet cannot wait to explore the world through a new set of eyes. What does the author mean by "a new set of eyes"?

10. Why is Violet excited to explore the world through a new set of eyes?

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Violet notices a small bird smiling at her.

**9.** At the end of the story, Violet cannot wait to explore the world through a new set of eyes. What does the author mean by "a new set of eyes"?

Answers may vary in wording but should center on Violet's new glasses.

**10.** Why is Violet excited to explore the world through a new set of eyes?

At minimum, students should explain that Violet is excited to be able to see the expressions on the faces of animals. Students may also note that Violet struggled to see with her old glasses given that her eyesight had gotten worse, so her new ability to see expressions on the faces of animals is probably especially exciting to her.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a meaning of the word **animated**?

- A. without any name given
- B. heighten or intensify
- C. no longer interesting

2. What is another meaning of the word **animated**?

- A. without any name given
- B. heighten or intensify
- C. no longer interesting

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. His passion was to breathe life into his characters, to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

- A. animated
- B. animate

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ animated cartoon pioneer, Walt Disney, first brought sound to cartoons.

- A. animated
- B. animate

5. Please write your own sentence using the word **animated**.

6. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **animated** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

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1. What is a meaning of the word **prescription**?

- A. a terrorist organization in Sri Lanka that began in 1970 as a student protest over the limited university access for Tamil students
- B. rotary engine in which the kinetic energy of a moving fluid is converted into mechanical energy by causing a bladed rotor to rotate
- C. a written order, as by a physician or nurse practitioner, for the administration of a medicine or other intervention

2. What is another meaning of the word **prescription**?

- A. a piece of advice
- B. a large metal pot
- C. a green vegetable

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. What would you \_\_\_\_\_ for such symptoms?

- A. prescription
- B. prescribe

4. The doctor gave him a \_\_\_\_\_ to help him fend off the disease.

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1. What is a meaning of the word **scene**?

- A. a display of bad temper
- B. seventh day of the week
- C. greatest amount allowed

2. What is another meaning of the word **scene**?

- A. a long (usually round) rod of wood or metal or plastic
- B. the process or manner of treating someone or something
- C. the context and environment in which something is set

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. The altitude, fresh air, and \_\_\_\_\_ can revive sagging spirits.

- A. scene
- B. scenic
- C. scenario
- D. scenes
- E. scenery

4. Today, research protections make such a \_\_\_\_\_ far less likely.

- A. scene
- B. scenic
- C. scenario
- D. scenes
- E. scenery

5. Most people believe that wildlife should be protected and that the \_\_\_\_\_ beauty of our world should be preserved.

- A. scene
- B. scenic
- C. scenario
- D. scenes
- E. scenery

6. It can make a quiet \_\_\_\_\_ look tender and warm.

- A. scene
- B. scenic
- C. scenario
- D. scenes
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7. It was strange because there were only a few speaking \_\_\_\_\_, and Tom only sang once.

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- C. scenario
- D. scenes
- E. **scenery**

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