

Name: _____

Creepy Fish

By Guy Belleranti

Dylan stared at what he had written and shook his head. "No, no, no!"

"'No, no, no' what?" asked Jenny from Dylan's bedroom doorway.

"My science project ideas," Dylan



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"Dylan, you have to come to my house!" Jaden said. "I've got strange fish in my rock pond. They'll be a great science project."

"Can I come too?" Jenny asked. "I love strange things."

Dylan shrugged. "I guess, but ask Mom first."

Jenny was back quickly with Mom in tow.

"You can both go," Mom said, "but don't stay long. It'll be dark soon."

"I think I know what the strange fish are," Jenny told Dylan as they followed

"Tadpoles. They swim like fish, but aren't fish."

Dylan stared at her. "Tadpoles would be super. We could talk about metamorphosis. The tadpoles might even turn into frogs while we're doing the project."

"Stop talking and look," Jaden said. He pointed.

Dylan and Jenny swatted away several flying bugs and looked into the pond.

"Those aren't tadpoles," Dylan said in disappointment.

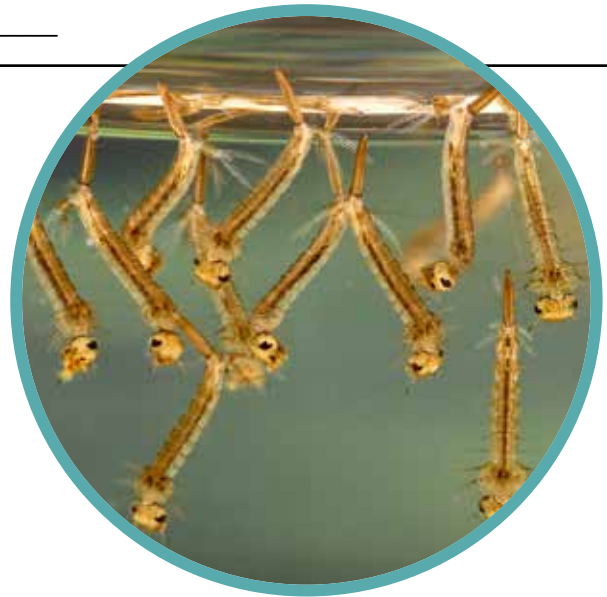
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"Of course not," Jaden said. "They're strange fish."

"They're not just strange," Jenny said. "They're creepy. The way they swim is creepy, their big eyes are creepy, and some are hanging upside down from the top of the water. Creepy, creepy, creepy!"

"They are creepy," Jaden agreed. "The kids at school will love them."

Dylan nodded. "They're going to be a great science project. Can I take some



over tomorrow after school, and I promise we'll keep the fish in here while



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scoped pond water and creepy fish into the large bowl. "Look out, they might be hungry and bite."

"Those don't look like any fish I've ever seen," Mom said when Dylan and Jenny returned to their house. "Dylan, you can put them on the desk in your room. Here is some of the fish food I feed our tropical fish."

"They're creepy fish, not tropical fish," Jenny said as she followed Dylan down the hall. "I don't want them anywhere close to my room."

"Okay," Dylan said. "Jaden's coming

rashed from school and into Dylan's room. The bowl on his desk was empty!

"Where are my fish?" Dylan cried.

Jenny poked her head into the room. "Mom got rid of them."

"Why?"

"Because they weren't fish," said Mom, coming into the room. "They were mosquito larvae. Some were turning into mosquitos and flying around!"

"Yikes!" Jaden said.

Dylan laughed. "What a way to start our creepy fish science project! This will be better than tadpoles!"

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1. What is Dylan's problem at the beginning of the story?

2. Which sentence best predicts that the strange fish are actually mosquito larvae?
a. Dylan and Jenny swatted away several flying bugs and looked into the pond.

A horizontal banner with a blue background on the left and white on the right. On the left, a cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit and a red cape, is flying. A blue shield with the letters 'MJS' is on his chest. On the right, the word 'Preview' is written in large, bold, red letters. Below it, in smaller black text, it says 'Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.'

Jenny was back quickly with Mom in tow.

What is the best meaning of in tow, as it is used in the sentence?

- a. above
- b. behind
- c. in front
- d. underneath

4. Who figured out what the "creepy fish" actually were?
a. Jenny
b. Dylan
c. Jaden
d. Mom

5. Explain what the "creepy fish" actually were. How did the characters in the story discover what they were?

Name: _____

Creepy Fish



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

1. ___ r a n ___ e

clue: weird or odd

2. m ___ t a ___ r p h ___ s i s

clue: a physical change

3. t ___ e ___ i ___ l

6. ___ e ___ e r ___ l

clue: numerous; many

7. ___ u s ___ e d

clue: moved quickly

8. ___ a r ___ a ___

clue: young, often wormlike insects

9. d ___ s a ___ o ___ n t ___ e n t

clue: defeated in expectation or hope

10. m ___ s ___ i t o

clue: a type of fly



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Creepy Fish

In the story, "Creepy Fish," Dylan and Jaden work together on a school science project. They have to choose a topic for the science project.

On the lines below, write about a science project topic you would be interested in. Be sure to explain why it is interesting.





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ANSWER KEY

Creepy Fish

By Guy Belleranti



1. What is Dylan's problem at the beginning of the story?

He is having trouble coming up with good ideas for the science project.

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The "creepy fish" were actually mosquito larvae. The characters discovered this when some of the larvae turned into mosquitos.

ANSWER KEY

Creepy Fish

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



1. s t r a n g e

strange

clue: weird or odd

2. m e t a m o r p h o s i s

metamorphosis

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10. m o s q u i t o

mosquito

clue: a type of fly