

Lesson 2

READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

New Glasses

Gideon had been wearing glasses for as long as he could remember. He wasn't exactly vain, but he was tired of being called "Four Eyes" by the other kids. His glasses seemed to fall off at the most inopportune times. They got wet when it rained, and misty when he became overheated. So Gideon was eager to try contact lenses. He thought it would be difficult to learn to propel his finger toward his eye without blinking, but he was motivated to try.

Gideon read that the possibility of using contact lenses was first described in 1508 by an Italian named Leonardo da Vinci. A German made the first contact lenses in 1887. They must have been very uncomfortable to wear because the lenses were hard and covered the entire front surface of the eyeball.

Dr. Miller, an ophthalmologist, gave Gideon a thorough examination. She used drops that dilated his pupils, then other drops that contracted them. She suggested soft lenses that would conform to the shape of his eyes and be comfortable. But she told Gideon that they were fragile and would require meticulous care.

Gideon became confident after he practiced inserting and removing his new contact lenses. He stuck his old glasses on a shelf and hoped he would never have to wear them again. Gideon felt like a new man!