



Fluency Passage—Fiction

The Desert Monster

Name ______ Word Count: 187

The Desert Monster

Casey woke up with a start. "What's that noise?"	9
Jonica rubbed her eyes and sat up in the tent. "What noise?"	21
she asked. Then, she heard it, too. They grabbed a flashlight	32
and climbed out of the tent, careful not to wake their parents.	44
"The desert is home to all sorts of creatures," said Casey.	46
"I sure hope we don't find one."	62
"You're letting your imagination run wild," Jonica replied,	70
clinging to Casey's shirt. They crept along the path near the	81
campsite. Whooo! Casey aimed the flashlight at the sound.	90
"Look!" yelled Jonica. "It's a monster with two huge arms!	100
It has gigantic eyes and a mouth!" The girls dashed back	111
to the tent and hid under the covers. When day broke, they	123
cautiously climbed out of the tent. "Maybe the monster's	132
gone," said Jonica.	135

Page 1 of 2



187

They walked along the path. Then Casey let out a loud laugh. The girls stood before a huge saguaro cactus. Its branches looked like arms. 160

Three woodpecker holes formed two eyes and a mouth. 169
Inside the "mouth" was a tiny owl. "Look at our desert 180

monster now!" said Casey with a laugh.

