Zooming In: looking closely at the text and finding the “so what?”



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| **The text says**  | **“so what?”** |
| “Then the doorbell rang.For a moment, everybody froze…” (25) |  |
| “The doorbell rang again, one urgent peal after another” (25) | Urgent suggests in a hurry—like there is an emergency and desperation—a call for help. |
| “But the doorbell ran three more times before he yanked the door back” (25). | Still, the doorbell keeps ringing. Someone has something important to say.Yanked suggests Jonah is starting to feel worried or angry—he’s probably wondering “who is interrupting our dinner and what could be so important?” |
| “At first he didn’t even seem to notice that the door was open…” (25) . | Chip is so focused on ringing the doorbell and talking to Jonah that he doesn’t even know the door is open. This seems like Chip has something on his mind. He isn’t paying attention to what is in front of him. |
| “He was breathing hard, like he’d run all the way from his house, six driveways down the street” (26). |  |
| “He shoved his hands through his curly blonde hair…” (26). |  |
| “And Chip kept darting his eyes around, like he couldn’t keep them trained on any one thing for more than an instant” (26). |  |
| “Chip clutched Jonah’s T-shirt” (26). |  |
| “Jonah peeled Chip’s fingers off the shirt” (26). |  |
| “Chip’s darting eyes took in the houses on either side of Jonah’s” (26). |  |
| “’Not here,’ Chip said, lowering his voice. ‘We’ve got to talk *privately*’” (26). |  |

Your turn!

1. Flip the paper over.

2. Write excerpts ↑ from the “exciting scene” you chose from the book and explain the “so what?”

Zooming In: looking closely at the text and finding the “so what?”



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| **The text says**  | **“so what?”** |
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1. What is important about this scene?

2. Do we learn something new about the characters OR plot? Explain.

3. How does MPH use specific words and why does she use them? What do they show us?

Zooming In: looking closely at the text and finding the “so what?”



One of my favorite scenes in the book begins on page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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I like this scene because

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1. Practice speaking your ideas.
2. When you are ready, go to vocaroo.com to record your “Zooming In” and your “so what?”
3. When you are done recording, click on



1. Highlight the embed code. You should click the mouse into the box at the beginning of the code, click on “Edit,” “select all,” “copy”



Zooming In: looking closely at the text and finding the “so what?”



**SAMPLE READING RESPONSE**

**Notice how….**

* Excerpts are put into the sentences—at least 3 examples are given
* Page numbers are included
* “So what” is explained
* The *favorite scene* and *why* are identified as topic sentences
* The paragraphs flow smoothly
* Conventions are followed: capitalization, punctuation, etc.

**One of my favorite scenes in the book begins on page 24** when Jonah’s family is having a conversation around the dinner table. The doorbell rings again and again “one urgent peal after another” (25). **Urgent** suggests an emergency—like a desperate call for help. Whoever keeps ringing the bell repeatedly has something important to say.

When Jonah goes to answer the door he “**yanked”** it open (25). Again, there is a sense of urgency. Yank means to pull quickly and maybe even violently. Jonah sees Chip there, but it is like Chip “didn’t even seem to notice that the door was open” (25). Chip keeps ringing the bell. This made me think that Chip is so focused on his need to ring the bell and talk to Jonah that he isn’t paying attention to what is happening. His mind is pre-occupied by something.

In the next few paragraphs, Chip “**shoves**” his hands through his hair, “**clutches”** Jonah’s shirt and his eyes “**dart”** around the neighborhood (26). These verbs are strong, insistent verbs that suggest hurried, nervous, and suspicious behavior.

**This is one of my favorite scenes because** the word choice shows how Chip has changed from the happy-go-lucky teenager with the crush on Jonah’s sister to a boy who doesn’t know **who** he is or **where** he came from. **I also like this scene because** it is a pivotal scene in the book—a turning point. No longer are Jonah and Chip casual friends, who shoot baskets in the driveway, now, they share a secret: a secret they don’t understand, and, a secret that binds them together to find answers.