

Read this story. Then answer questions 6 through 10.

# Hooked

by Carmelita Wilson

“Can we stop at Juan’s place?” Zach asked his mom as she got ready to drive him and Grandpa to Teacup Lake to go fishing. Juan owned a game system, and four guys from school were going over to Juan’s apartment to play a new game and eat pizza. Meanwhile, Zach was about to be forced to hold a stupid stick with a stupid string dangling from the end of it in a stupid boat on a stupid lake.

Grandpa said quietly, “Nora, I’ll let you and Zach talk while I load the car.”

When Grandpa was out of earshot, Zach’s mom scolded him, “Zachary, what could you be thinking? Your grandpa has traveled halfway across the country to spend time with his only grandson. You know we don’t have time to stop at Juan’s place. You can play video games almost any other day of the year!”

“You don’t understand,” Zach replied in a whiny tone. “This is a new game. It just came out. All my friends will be there, and now everyone will know how to play except me.”

“Get in the car, Zach,” his mom ordered with a loud sigh.

“I’m sorry, Mom,” Zach said right away, and he really did feel sorry. He knew it was his responsibility to spend time with Grandpa, and he was ashamed of himself. Still, fishing sounded as dull to him as staring at a blank computer screen. Zach and his mom hardly ever visited the lake even though they lived nearby. They were busy with soccer, school, homework, and his mom’s job.

During the drive, Zach kept quiet and listened to his mom and grandfather chat about Teacup Lake’s excellent water quality and the latest reports about this season’s trout and bass populations.



At the foot of the wide, silver lake, Mom said good-bye and drove off to take her Spanish class. Grandpa rented a canoe from the shop at the dock, and he and Zach set out in the fading late-afternoon sunlight. Grandpa steered toward a wooded cove, where he knew fish liked to feed. The water was shallower and still, the air cool. As the canoe arrived, three turtles crawled off a floating log and plopped into the water. Zach followed Grandpa's instructions and soon had his rod, reel, line, hook, bobber, and bait all set.

For 30 minutes, they spoke quietly. The older man listened to his grandson talk about the things he enjoyed. Once in a while, he nodded or offered an encouraging word. Zach felt himself relax, enjoying his grandfather's attention and company.

Suddenly there was a tug at Zach's line. "Looks like you've got company," Grandpa said. He gave only a word or two of advice here and there, mainly letting Zach reel in the large brown trout by himself. Zach's heart beat quicker. He realized that he had totally stopped caring about the computer game and pizza he was missing at Juan's. Grandpa unhooked the wiggling fish and tossed it back into the lake, uninjured. "It was big enough to keep," he explained, "but I practice catch-and-release."

*Then why do you like fishing so much?* Zach nearly asked. But he already knew: His grandpa enjoyed the peace and quiet, surrounded by nature. Grandpa handed Zach a pair of binoculars and pointed to a large, skinny bird with a hooked beak, perched atop a dead tree at the edge of the lake.

"A cormorant," Grandpa said. "He's here for the same reason we are, but he won't throw his catch back into the lake."

Two hours passed by quickly, with plenty to see and a few fish, big and small. All too soon, it was time to paddle back to the dock.

"I would say Zach got hooked on my hobby today," chuckled Grandpa as they climbed back into Mom's car.

Zach replied with a grin, "Like a big brown trout."

**6** This story is **best** described as

- A** a folktale
- B** realistic fiction
- C** a descriptive essay
- D** an autobiography

**7** At the beginning of the story, how does Zach feel about going fishing?

- A** bored
- B** excited
- C** insecure
- D** indifferent

**8** Why does Zach’s voice take on “a whiny tone” when he argues with his mom?

- A** He is used to having his way.
- B** He is being immature, and he knows it.
- C** He is at an age when his voice is changing.
- D** He thinks it will make his mom feel sorry for him.

**9** How do Zach’s feelings change by the end of the story?

- A** Zach feels sorry for his aging grandfather.
- B** Zach has no tolerance for the sport of fishing.
- C** Zach better understands his grandfather and his favorite hobby.
- D** Zach is envious of his mother’s relationship with his grandfather.

**10** The **main** conflict in the story is between Zach and

- A** a big fish
- B** his grandpa
- C** his friend Juan
- D** his own feelings