

Name: _____

Catch of the Day

by Kelly Hashway



Cindy cast her line into the lake. She aimed for the ridge her father had told her about. He'd said the biggest fish swam there. Cindy really wanted to catch the biggest fish of the day. She and her father had been looking forward to the community fishing competition for months, and the prize for the biggest fish was a huge trophy. Cindy had already cleared a spot for it on her shelf.

"Got one!" someone yelled.

Cindy recognized the boy who was reeling in a fish. His name was Ryan.

"It's a big one!" Ryan's father said.

Cindy's father put his hand on her shoulder. "Be patient. You can't rush the fish."

"But what if I don't catch anything? I really want that trophy."

Her father nodded. "Trophies are nice, but you love fishing. Don't let winning a trophy ruin your fun."

Cindy smiled. Her father always knew what to say to cheer her up. She gently wiggled her line, hoping to entice the fish to take her bait. She paused for a second and tried to wiggle the line again, but it wouldn't budge.

"I'm stuck on something," Cindy said.

"Give it a gentle tug. It might be a fish," her father said.

Cindy tugged and the line tugged back. "It's a fish!" She began to reel the fish to shore. It was really strong, and she imagined the biggest fish she'd ever seen on the end of the line. A few feet from shore, something green broke the surface of the water.

"It's a turtle!" her father said.

Everyone gathered around to see Cindy's catch. The turtle was enormous.

"It must be forty pounds!" Ryan said.



Cindy worked harder than she ever had to reel in the turtle, and when she got the turtle to the edge of the water, her father set it free. The turtle turned and disappeared beneath the surface.

"Oh no!" Cindy cried.

Mr. Reynolds, the contest judge, walked over. "That turtle's been in this lake for years. People come fishing just hoping to see him."

"Really?" Cindy asked.

Mr. Reynolds nodded. "The competition isn't over yet, but I have a feeling I know who is going to win the 'One That Got Away' trophy."

Cindy's eyes lit up. She was glad she hadn't caught the turtle. It would give her something to look forward to on her next fishing trip.

Note from the Author

Kelly Hashway

I used to go fishing with my father when I was younger, and I really did catch a forty pound turtle once! I'll never forget that.

Name: _____

Catch of the Day

by Kelly Hashway



1. Match the characters on the left with their descriptions on the right.

_____ 1. Ryan

a. patient fisherman

_____ 2. Mr. Reynolds

b. caught a big fish

_____ 3. Cindy

c. worries about winning a trophy

_____ 4. Cindy's Father

d. fishing contest judge

2. What did Cindy catch? _____

3. The first paragraph tells us that Cindy had already cleared a spot for the trophy on her shelf. What does this tell us about Cindy?

- a. She was hoping to catch lots of small fish.
- b. She liked spending time with her father.
- c. She was expecting to win the fishing contest.
- d. She cleaned her room before the fishing trip.

4. What lesson can you learn from this story?

Name: _____



Catch of the Day

Vocabulary

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.
Then, write the full word on the line.

1. _ _ m _ _ _ i _ _ o _

clue: contest

1. _____

2. _ a _ _

clue: to throw a fishing line into the water

2. _____

3. _ e _ _ _ _

clue: not strong

3. _____

4. _ _ m _ _ _ i _ _

clue: place where people live together

4. _____

5. _ i _ _ e

clue: area at the top of a hill or cliff

5. _____

6. _ u _ _ _ c _

clue: top

6. _____

7. _ u _ _ e

clue: move

7. _____

ANSWER KEY

Catch of the Day

by Kelly Hashway



1. Match the characters on the left with their descriptions on the right.

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>b</u> | 1. Ryan | a. patient fisherman |
| <u>d</u> | 2. Mr. Reynolds | b. caught a big fish |
| <u>c</u> | 3. Cindy | c. worries about winning a trophy |
| <u>a</u> | 4. Cindy's Father | d. fishing contest judge |

2. What did Cindy catch? a turtle

3. The first paragraph tells us that Cindy had already cleared a spot for the trophy on her shelf. What does this tell us about Cindy?

- a. She was hoping to catch lots of small fish.
- b. She liked spending time with her father.
- c. She was expecting to win the fishing contest.
- d. She cleaned her room before the fishing trip.

4. What lesson can you learn from this story?

Answers will vary. Possible answer: You don't have to win to have a good time.

Name: _____



Catch of the Day

Vocabulary

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.
Then, write the full word on the line.

1. c o m p e t i t i o n

clue: contest

1. competition

2. c a s t

clue: to throw a fishing line into the water

2. cast

3. g e n t l e

clue: not strong

3. gentle

4. c o m m u n i t y

clue: group of people who live in the same area

4. community

5. r i d g e

clue: area at the top of a hill or cliff

5. ridge

6. s u r f a c e

clue: top

6. surface

7. b u d g e

clue: move

7. budge