

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.



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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



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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**

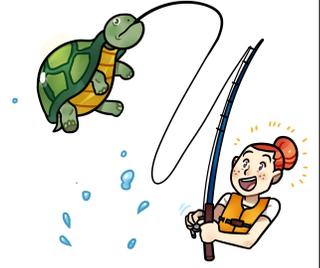
**Kelly Hashway**

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.

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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



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- 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?

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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. \_\_\_\_\_



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5. \_\_\_ i \_\_\_ e  
**clue:** area at the top of a hill or cliff

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_ u \_\_\_ c \_\_\_  
**clue:** top

6. \_\_\_\_\_

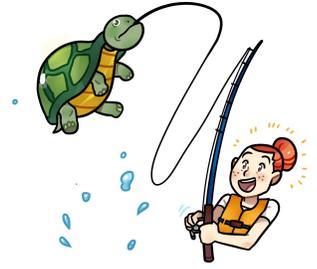
7. \_\_\_ u \_\_\_ e  
**clue:** move

7. \_\_\_\_\_

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In the story, "Catch of the Day," Cindy learns that the most important part of a competition isn't always winning. In fact, learning to have fun and enjoy the experience are even more valuable lessons. This is what Cindy discovers when she catches a turtle at the fishing competition.

Describe a time when you participated in a competition that you didn't win. What did you learn from the experience? Are there more important things than winning? Write your answer on the lines below.

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## ANSWER KEY

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

**b** 1. Ryan

**a.** patient fisherman

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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. compeliion

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