Morgan has always loved fishing. He is about to graduate from high school and has been fishing his entire life. His entire family loves to go fishing—even his grandmother! Morgan started learning how to fish before he could even walk.

“My dad would have to hold the pole,” he said, “and I’d reel.”

By the time Morgan was two, he could hold the fishing pole all by himself. Now he is eighteen years old and still goes fishing a lot. He tries to make sure he can go at least once every few months. He has gotten even better at it than his father and his grandfather!

When Morgan was ten years old, he caught the biggest fish of his life. It was 4:45 a.m., and he was out in his boat at his favorite fishing spot. But he just wasn’t catching anything. Suddenly, he felt his fishing pole bend forward, and the reel started spinning! He had caught a fish, and it was trying to get away! The fish kept trying and trying to get away, but Morgan held on tight. He struggled with the fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it! When Morgan finally pulled the fish into the boat, it was almost as big as he was!
The fish was 42 inches long, just 5 inches shorter than Morgan, and wider than him. The fish was so big, Morgan even got to have his picture on the cover of a magazine!

However, Morgan says not every fishing experience turns out so well. Once, when he was 12, he had a fishing experience he will never forget! He was out fishing one morning, and it was very cold. To make matters worse, he also wasn’t wearing enough clothes. However, he had caught a fish, and it was one of the largest he had ever caught. After catching it, he attached it to his boat using a stringer, which is a device used to attach the fish to the boat while still keeping it in the water.

When Morgan went to pull the fish out of the water, it escaped with the stringer and started swimming away! He immediately jumped in after it, right into the cold water! Of course, he couldn’t outswim the fish, so it got away. “We never saw the fish again; I was freezing, and I lost my stringer,” said Morgan. “But it’s funny if you think about it.” Morgan always tries to have a positive attitude when he is fishing. He thinks being a fisherman has also taught him some important lessons about life. “Fishing has created the person I am,” he said. “It brings out the better in me, and it shows me there’s more to life than what goes on immediately. Some days you’ll get nothing, and the next day you’ll go out and catch the biggest fish.”
1. When did Morgan start learning to fish?
   A when he was two years old
   B before he could walk
   C when he was 10 years old
   D when he was about to graduate from high school

2. In the passage, the author compares which two events?
   A a fishing trip when Morgan caught a fish AND a fishing trip when he caught a fish and then lost it
   B a fishing trip with his father AND a fishing trip with his grandfather
   C a fishing trip when Morgan fell off the boat AND a fishing trip when Morgan went swimming
   D a fishing trip with a big, strong fish AND a fishing trip with a small, fast fish

3. In the passage, the author says that Morgan "goes fishing a lot" and that he "has gotten even better at it than his father and his grandfather." Based on this evidence, what can be concluded about the sport of fishing?
   A Fishing can be learned in less than a week.
   B Being good at fishing takes a lot of practice.
   C Only teenagers are good at fishing.
   D Fishing is best taught by family members.

4. Read the following sentences from the passage:

   "The fish kept trying and trying to get away, but Morgan held on tight. He struggled with the fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it!"

   Based on this evidence, how can Morgan best be described?
   A determined
   B lazy
   C angry
   D uncertain
5. What is the main theme of the story?

   A Learning how to fish is a good way to learn how to swim.
   B Fishing makes you strong if you hold onto the pole.
   C Fishing is a good family activity.
   D Fishing is like life, with some days that are a success and other days that are not.

6. Read the following sentences: "When Morgan went to pull the fish out of the water, it escaped with the stringer and started swimming away! He immediately jumped in after it, right into the cold water! Of course, he couldn't outswim the fish, so it got away."

   What does the word "outswim" mean?

   A to get out of the water
   B to swim faster than
   C to swim slower than
   D to swim past the boat

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

   Morgan jumped in the water ______ it was cold.

   A after
   B because
   C when
   D even though

8. Explain how Morgan caught the biggest fish of his life when he was ten years old.

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
9. Why does Morgan like fishing so much? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

10. Morgan thinks that being a fisherman has taught him important life lessons. Identify one of these important life lessons that Morgan may have learned from being a fisherman by using evidence in the text.
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 780

1. B before he could walk

2. A a fishing trip when Morgan caught a fish AND a fishing trip when he caught a fish and then lost it

3. B Being good at fishing takes a lot of practice.

4. A determined

5. D Fishing is like life, with some days that are a success and other days that are not.

6. B to swim faster than

7. D even though

8. Suggested answer: Students may note any of the following details to communicate that Morgan struggled to catch the fish before he finally caught it: Morgan felt his fishing pole bend forward all of a sudden and the reel started spinning, Morgan held on tight to the fish as it kept trying to get away, and he struggled with the fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it.

9. Suggested answer: Answers will vary as long as they are supported by the text: Students can explain that Morgan enjoys the activity of fishing as he has been fishing his entire life, including at 4:45 am or in very cold temperatures with great pleasure. Students may also reason that it is an activity that he enjoys with his entire family. Students may also point out that being a fisherman has taught Morgan important lessons about life, created the person he is today, and brings out the better in him.

10. Suggested answer: Answers will vary but should be supported by the text. Students may explain that Morgan may have learned to be determined and patient, no matter how difficult a situation may be, in order to achieve a certain goal. For example, he struggled with a fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it when he was ten years old. Students may also reason that Morgan may have learned that no matter how much effort you put into something, things don’t always go as planned. They may cite the example of Morgan jumping into the cold water to catch the fish, which finally escaped.