Name:	
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Gingersnap Smile

by Liana Mahoney

"Tell me this story, Grandpa," I say, tracing a crooked line over his eyebrows. I sit on his lap with a plate of spicy cookies, and lick crumbs from my lips.

A thousand wrinkles smile back at me

Grandma once Grandpa's wrinkles is That must be why we Nobody has more wr

"Girl," Great Gra grandma's."

Grandpa leans too. The white ceiling

Grandpa squin sky ceiling. He tells al

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ap smile since your

and I look up there,

nuch farther than the er. His voice is warm

"The lake was so smooth that day that the dragonflies wouldn't land."

"Why not?" I ask.

and soft, like my favorite blanket.

"Ripples," he tells me. "Their buzzing wings make a tiny breeze that ripples the

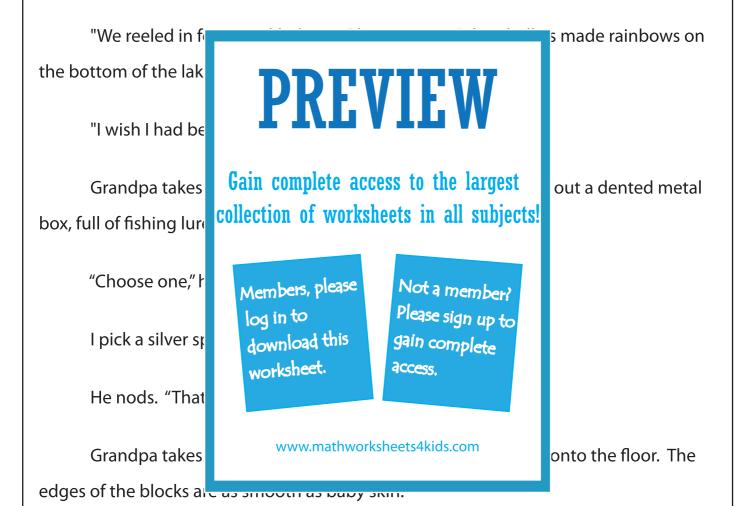
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water."

I feel the soft breeze of dragonfly wings in my hair.

"The fish spot the ripples, and... JUMP out of the water to EAT the dragonflies!"

I almost jump right off his lap! Gingersnap crumbs fly all over the chair. We both laugh.



I build castles, dollhouses, and pirate ships. Grandpa laughs from his story chair as he watches me.

"Your mother used to tell stories with these blocks when she was a little girl. And your mother's mother, too."

"Good stories?" I ask.

"Great stories!" he says.

"I wish I could have been there," I said.

Soon, it's time to go.

Great Grandpa

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He hands me a

"Don't forget th

"Next time, you

do."

I kiss his pink c wonder if my mother thought.

I wave to Gran

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eyes.

reat granddaughters

the wooden blocks. I before. I giggle at the

e again. I see myself

staring back from the silver of its shiny belly. I watch as my fingers move to my face.

I think I feel a new wrinkle - or maybe just a gingersnap smile pulling at my cheeks.

Gingersnap Smile

- 1) How close to each other do you think the grandfather and the child in the story are?
- 2) What is the most emotionally engaging scene in the story?

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4) Compare and co

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5) List the similes in the story.