

Name : _____

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
and soft, like my favorite blanket.

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

"Why not?" I ask.

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



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ap smile since your

and I look up there,

much farther than the
er. His voice is warm

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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.

"We reeled in fish that were as big as my head. They made rainbows on the bottom of the lake."

"I wish I had been a fish."

Grandpa takes out a dented metal box, full of fishing lures.

"Choose one," he says.

I pick a silver spinner.

He nods. "That's a good choice."

Grandpa takes out a stack of wooden blocks and puts them onto the floor. The edges of the blocks are as smooth as baby skin.

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."

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"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 _____ eyes.

"Don't forget th

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He hands me a

"Next time, you

reat granddaughters

do."

I kiss his pink c

the wooden blocks. I

wonder if my mother

before. I giggle at the

thought.

I wave to Gran

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.

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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?

3) Can you recount

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4) Compare and con

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5) List the similes in the story.
