

In school we learned about the earth. We learned that rivers flow from higher ground to lower ground. They usually end at a bigger river or go into a lake or ocean. I can see that every day in Chicago. Our river goes into the lake. It's a giant lake.

We used to go fishing on the river every summer. Most days you would find me and my grandfather there, fishing. My father was busy working for the city. I did not know what his job was. He said it was in the Sanitary and Ship Canal. He left early each morning and came home at night, always very dirty.

My grandfather would take me to the river. We'd sit all day and catch fish. I would listen to my grandfather tell about the times he had when he first came to Chicago. He had built our home by himself. "In the old days," he said, "This was a clean stream. "Now look at it. It is filthy."

That day was the end of our fun. We would see boxes floating by. Sometimes we even saw dead fish floating on it. When we brought the fish home, my mother would throw them out. "We can't eat this. This is dirty, bad fish." She sounded angry. But I thought she really liked my grandfather.

So my grandfather and I stopped bringing the fish home. Sometimes we would go to fish and throw them back. But mostly we just stayed at home. We were sad about it.

Then one Christmas my father was so busy he was not home. He even went to work on Christmas day. That New Year's day he worked, too. My mother was worried. "It is too cold." But he went anyway.

Then two days later the newspaper said, "It is a miracle!" That was the headline. I read the article. It told how the workers on the Sanitary and Ship Canal had done something impossible. They had reversed the Chicago River. They dug such a great hole that the river rushed away from the lake. It now went to the west. Now you could go on the river and canal all the way to the Mississippi River.

I was excited. So was my grandfather. He said, "Now we can go fishing this summer." We both laughed. So did my mother. My father smiled a lot, all day long.

Identify, analyze, and infer relationships – Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. How does the child feel about his grandfather?

- a. sad
- b. fond
- c. angry
- d. proud

3. How does the father feel about his work.

- a. dedicated
- b. tired
- c. hopeful
- d. helpful

2. Why does the mother worry about her husband?

- a. The weather was cold.
- b. It was dangerous.
- c. She loved him.
- d. He took chances.

4. Why did the father smile so much?

- a. It was funny.
- b. He was proud.
- c. His family laughed.
- d. His father liked him.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. How do you think the grandfather felt about his son? Why?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	c	a	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

The grandfather was proud of his son because he had done something very important.