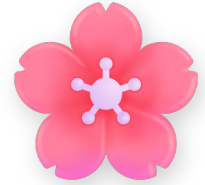




Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching.

The Impatient Fisherman of Izumi



In a small village nestled between towering green mountains and the vast, shimmering sea, lived a young fisherman named Kaito. Kaito was strong and eager, but his heart often raced with impatience. He dreamed of catching the largest fish in the shortest time, hoping to impress everyone in Izumi. He watched the older fishermen, especially Kenji, who always returned with a steady, humble catch, day after day. Kaito, however, yearned for instant, grand success.

One crisp morning, as Kaito prepared his nets with hurried movements, Kenji approached him. "The sea is generous, Kaito," the old man said, his voice as calm as the morning tide. "But she demands patience and reverence. Rush her, and she will give you nothing." Kaito nodded, but his mind was already devising a quicker way. He believed Kenji's methods were too slow, too traditional. He wanted to prove that modern speed could conquer the ancient ways.

Ignoring Kenji's gentle warning, Kaito steered his small boat further out than usual, to a spot he thought was untouched. He cast his nets with an aggressive splash, hoping to startle a large school of fish into his trap. The salty spray kissed his face, but he paid little attention to the rhythm of the waves. He used a new, heavier lure, designed to sink faster, believing it would guarantee a quick haul. The sun climbed higher, warming his back, yet his basket remained empty.

Hours passed. Kaito pulled up his nets again and again, finding only a few small, unwanted fish or empty spaces. Frustration began to bubble within him. He looked towards the shore and saw Kenji's boat, already heading back to the village, its basket



visibly full. Kenji had fished closer to the shore, using lighter nets and waiting with quiet determination. Kaito couldn't fathom why his powerful, fast approach wasn't working. He felt a growing irritation with the stubborn sea.



As the afternoon wore on, Kaito noticed something. The waters where he had been fishing were now strangely still, almost lifeless. His aggressive methods had scattered the fish, driving them deeper or further away. Meanwhile, Kenji, who had worked calmly and quietly, had allowed the fish to come to him. Kaito remembered Kenji's words about "reverence" – a deep respect for the sea and its ways. He understood that he had treated the ocean like a resource to be conquered, not a living entity to be understood.

With a sigh, Kaito began to reel in his empty nets for the last time. He returned to the village long after Kenji, his face downcast. That evening, as he watched Kenji share his abundant catch with the villagers, Kaito finally understood. The old fisherman's patience and respect for nature had yielded a greater reward than Kaito's hurried ambition. From that day forward, Kaito learned to listen to the whispers of the sea and the wisdom of his elders. He learned that true success isn't about speed, but about understanding, patience, and treating the world around us with care.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character and where do they live or find themselves?

(2) What problem or challenge did the character face?



(3) What does the word "reverence" mean as it is used in the fable?

(4) Was Kaito's initial choice to ignore Kenji's advice and fish aggressively a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.

(5) What lesson does this fable teach? How could this lesson help you in real life?

