

Realistic Fiction Practice #2

Student's name: _____.

Direction: Read the following text and answer the questions below.

Mega fisherman

Arun San pulled in his father's tattered fishing net. "Every day is the same on the Mekong River," he said. "My nets are empty and my belly is, too."

Laughter and teasing erupted from the crowd on the shore. "This river is full of fish!" a buyer scoffed. "And you could not catch one?"

Arun's face burned. He had borrowed money to buy his boat. If he didn't make the payments, the lender would take his boat away.

"How will I ever provide for my mother?" Arun wondered. He tethered his boat and grabbed his camera, his most prized possession. It had been a gift from his father before he died. "I didn't catch fish today, but at least I caught images," Arun said.

Before dawn, Arun went to a secluded spot and let down his net.

"Maybe I'll have better luck here," he said. While he waited, he snapped photos of the tangerine-colored sunrise and the rolling hills covered in morning mist.

After adjusting his net, his boat gave a hard lurch.

"I've caught something!" Arun exclaimed, pulling up the net. With each tug, the boat rocked and took in water. Sweat poured off Arun's forehead, and his muscles shook.

Then, the tension in the net eased. Gliding to the surface of the river was the most massive stingray Arun had ever seen. Arun drew in a sharp breath, and grabbed his camera with one hand.

As quickly as he could, he snapped photo after photo. Arun had heard of the mega fish in the Mekong River, but no one he knew had ever seen one.

Arun opened the net and set the stingray free. With a few graceful movements, it vanished.

Back on shore, Arun ignored the laughter and pointing fingers of the other fishermen. He ignored the threats of the lender. He ignored the growl of his stomach. On his camera, he had proof that he had just caught and released the largest, heaviest stingray in the world. And with the photos, he now had away he could provide.

