

Will I Ever Get to Go Fishing Again?

I have always wanted to go fishing so my mom bought me a fishing rod a few months ago. My rod is blue and just the right size. My mom is a teacher and she asked one of her students named Patrick to fix the rod with fishing line and a hook. He explained to her how to cast it. I begged her to let me try fishing so after school, we stopped on the way home in Norco by the spillway, and I tried to fish. My mom doesn't know how to fish and she tried to tell me what Patrick had explained to her about casting. Please note that I have never used this rod before, so...I tried to cast but all I got were knots in my line. We got in the car and it turns out my mom had told me the wrong way to cast, but I don't think it would have made a difference.

So my mom brings my rod back to school and asks Patrick to fix the line. She also told my teacher, Mr. Juan about our fishing experience. He is a great fisherman and goes fishing with Mr. Mark who works at my school. Well, little did I know, that same day, Mr. Juan and Mr. Mark called my mom and asked if they could take me fishing. When I got to her class on Thursday she said, "You get to go fishing with Mr. Juan on Saturday." I was really excited but then it dawned on me, I still couldn't cast. So the next day my mom brought my pole to her classroom to see if I could find someone to help me learn how to cast after school. I looked for my friend, Nick, who fishes with his family, but I couldn't find him. Well, I was very worried about not being able to cast when I went fishing.

That evening at dinner, my mom told me the details about going fishing. If the weather was good on Saturday, then she would bring me to Mr. Juan's house at 6 a.m. On Friday night, my teacher called my mom and gave her all of the details for the fishing trip. She told him that I did not know how to cast. He told her not to worry. I packed a lunch, laid out my clothes, and put some water bottles in the freezer. I went to bed early so I would be ready to get up early.

When morning came, I was up and ready to go at 4:30 a.m. My mom took me to eat a good breakfast at Denny's. After that, we went to Mr. Mark's house and

met my teacher, Mr. Juan there. My mom said good-bye and then we all got into a truck that had a boat attached to it. We drove for over an hour to Lafitte. I put on a life jacket and then Mr. Juan showed me how to cast. Casting was not as hard as I thought. To cast, you put your finger on the line, flip the switch before you cast out with the rod, and then quickly release the part of the line that you are holding onto and your line goes sailing out into the water. He told me I was a natural and I felt really good. I was no longer worried about casting.

We got in the boat and rode around. Mr. Mark was thinking of buying the boat so he was testing it out. It worked fine and went really fast. When we hit waves, we would go up and down like a rollercoaster. We kept stopping at different places to fish but we did not catch anything. We saw lots of mullet jumping in the water but we could not catch them either! When we fished by Goose Bayou, Mr. Juan pulled up a creature that I think was an eel. Mr. Juan put dead shrimp on my hook for bait. I kept getting bites but no fish. Nobody was able to catch any fish. He sent my mom a picture of me fishing from his phone.

Even though I did not catch any fish, I had a great time. I learned how to cast, and I will be ready for the next time someone asks me to go fishing. I sure hope that the oil spill in the Gulf does not enter into Lake Pontchartrain or our wetlands. My teacher said that he will take me to one of his favorite spots where he catches lots of fish but now I wonder if that will ever happen because of the oil coming into our area. And now that it is almost hurricane season, I am worried that we will get hit with a bad hurricane and there may be no wetlands to protect us. "No fishing" will only be the beginning of the harm done to Louisiana from the oil.