

FIRST PLACE-JUNIOR ESSAY

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Bendel Gardens Country Day Homeschool

Age 13

TROUT ON SOFT PLASTICS

The wind was coming 10 miles an hour out of the East, yet there were no whitecaps. It was one of the slowest weekends in Grand Isle I had ever fished. I was about to throw out my popping cork again when my dad said, "If you want, you can throw your soft plastics. Nothing's biting so you might have some luck on that." I then started throwing my chartreuse swim bait.

After about ten casts, I felt a large bump on the end of my line, my rod started to bend, so I set the hook on a nice 15-and-1/2 inch trout. When I got the trout in the boat, I told my brother, who despises artificial lures, "Don't talk bad about my plastics, I just caught the first fish." He then responded by saying, "Do it again."

Soon, after a quick move to Fifi Island, and a couple of casts which yielded a 16-inch trout. My little brother was amazed. He replied, "Good job." My grandfather then decided to switch to a plastic under a popping cork.

A couple of minutes later, my brother got a trout on a live shrimp, so we decided to stay. Shortly after my brother got his trout, he started singing to himself while sitting on the top of the boat motor. He didn't notice, but my grandfather, my dad, and I were laughing at him.

After my brother caught his fish, I threw a couple of casts off the back of the boat and hooked my last trout of the day. Finally, after half an hour, my dad decided to pick up and go back to the camp.

This story makes me feel good about myself, because it was the first time I ever caught trout on artificial bait.