



Michael, 12

What have you been doing this week?

I've been going to school and playing outside with friends, mostly.

What are you doing in school?

We just finished our end-of-grade tests. School ends in two weeks.

What do you play when you play with friends?

I play football, soccer, basketball with the guys in the neighborhood. We play at Evan's house. He has a basketball hoop in his yard.

And I see a fishing pole in your hands.

Yeah, I like to go to the pond and fish. I normally go about once a week. I usually catch a few. Today I hooked five, but they all got off. But I did catch two. It really keeps you going.* It makes you think, "I really want to catch that fish." My dad loves to fish, so he taught me.

I don't think you've always lived in this neighborhood. Is that right?

Yeah. We lived in Switzerland for two years. I liked it, but I like it here more. There's more stuff* to do here, more entertainment. But it was fun in Switzerland.

Did you learn a new language in Switzerland?

I already knew Swiss German because my mom was from Switzerland. I learned it when I was three or four.

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

Um. Hello from America!

A Few Words

Keeps you going: This phrase has more than one meaning. *Keep* often means “continue.” Here, Michael means that when the fish get off the hook before he can get them out of the water, he wants to come back and try again.

Stuff: This word is very informal. *Stuff to do* is an informal way to say “things to do.” (Notice that *stuff* takes a singular verb.)

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a hobby or special interest that you learned from one of your parents? What is it? What is your favorite way to spend time with your parents?
2. Michael doesn't like to fail when he tries to catch a fish. He continues trying. What new skill are you developing that requires you to continue trying even though you often fail?