The Bass, the River, and Sheila Mant

1. What does the narrator learn about Sheila Mant from watching her?
2. What does the narrator never go anywhere without?
3. What does Sheila think about fishing?
4. Why might Sheila feel this way?
5. The narrator says in the story, “It must have been an old bass- a young one wouldn’t have known the rocks were there.” What does this tell you about the narrator?
6. What choice does the narrator have to make in this story?
7. What does the narrator do with the fish?
8. What does he sacrifice? What is his reward?
9. How does the date with Sheila Mant end?
10. What does Sheila tell the narrator about himself at the end of the story?
11. What kind of person do you think Sheila Mant is?
12. Why is the narrator attracted to Sheila Mant?
13. What mistake did the narrator “never make again”?
14. What is the lesson that we learn from reading this story?

HINT: IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FISHING

1. Do you think the date with Sheila would have turned out differently if he had told her about the fish? Write a paragraph (FIVE TO SEVEN SENTENCES), explaining how this story may have ended differently.
2. What does the narrator do to try to impress Sheila? List at least three things.
3. Why does the narrator use a canoe for his date?
4. What is Sheila’s reaction to traveling by canoe?
5. What is another sacrifice besides releasing the fish that the narrator makes for Sheila?
6. How is the narrator’s experience with the fish similar to his experience with Sheila Mant?

List at least four different ways.

1. Why doesn’t the narrator ask Sheila out when he first sees her?
2. Who are some of Sheila Mant’s other admirers?
3. What does the narrator do on his way to pick up Sheila?
4. How can you relate to the narrator? On the chart below, write sentences from the story EXACTLY how they appear in the story. On the other side, tell me how you can connect to that sentence.

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| Example: “It was late August by the time I got up the nerve to ask her out.” | I have had to work on getting my nerve up before like when I tried out for the varsity basketball team. |
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