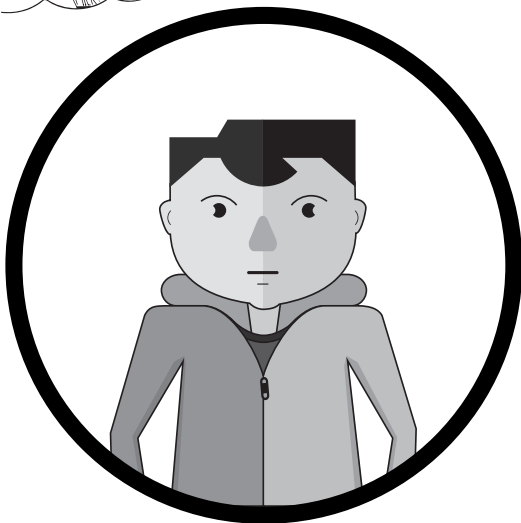


MEET THE



Dan

**Age:** 12

**Fun Fact:** holds the school record for most cell phones lost or destroyed

**Future Goal:** to be an airline pilot

**Biggest Fish Caught:** seven-pound largemouth bass

**Best Quality:** calm under pressure

# CHARACTERS



Homer

**Age:** 92

**Favorite Breakfast:** two poached eggs on toast with maple-flavored sausage on the side

**Unusual Hobby:** collects old lightbulbs

**Can't Eat This Anymore:** 3 Musketeers

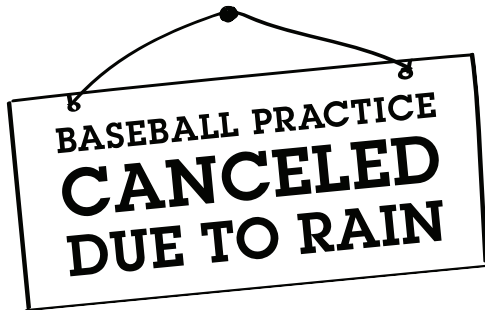
**Best Quality:** great sense of humor

1  
BIG RAIN

Dan looked out the window. It was night. Outside was pitch black. The sound of rain was loud.

“Still coming down,” he reported.

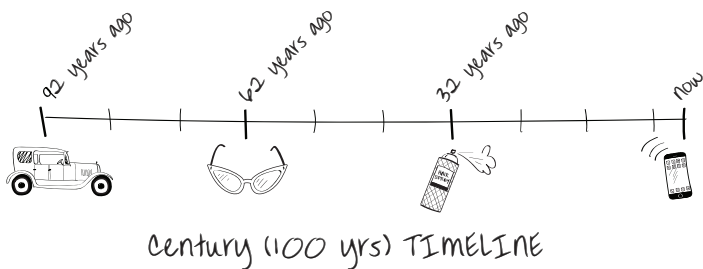
Dan’s best friend, Pete, rolled his eyes. “It’s been raining for a week. I’m sick of being inside. No baseball. And more rain is coming.”



They were next door at the Lands' house. Old Mr. Land laughed. "I don't need you to tell me. My hands ache. They always ache when it rains."

His wife made a funny face. "Homer, your hands ache no matter."

Mr. Land grinned. "My dear wife. I'm ninety-two years old. They're supposed to ache."

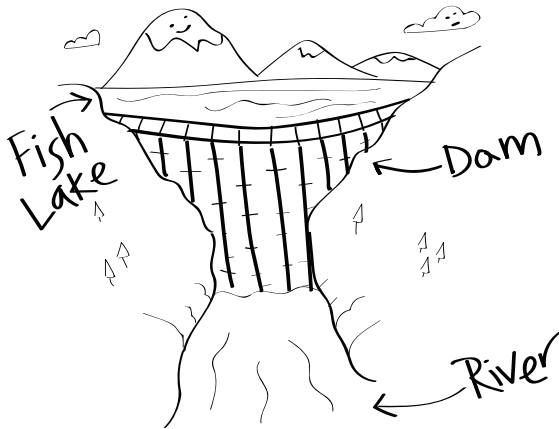


"Just take your medicines, Mister Land," Dan reminded him.

Mr. Land was a great guy. Dan loved him and Ellie, his wife. He was as smart as a



whip. He used to take Dan fishing at Fish Lake. They had a lot of luck near the big dam. Sometimes they would fish the river below the dam. Water from the lake fed the river.



Mr. Land was also a great darts player. But he had a lot of health stuff. The biggest issue was with his blood sugar. He had diabetes. He had to test his blood all the time. If the sugar level was bad, he had to

