

GRANDMA

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Grandma (Marie), 60s-70s. Pete's stern, domineering grandmother who moves in after his father dies and his mother spirals into depression. She's big, intimidating to young Pete, and smells like "old clothes and cigarettes." She's tough, no-nonsense, and believes in "toughening up" Pete through hunting and fishing—activities he hates because he doesn't want to kill animals. She throws away his beloved jar of dead moths and tries to mold him into a "normal boy." When Pete's mother dies (implied suicide with bandaged wrists), Grandma becomes Pete's legal guardian and lays down strict rules. She's not overtly cruel, but she's cold, controlling, and represents everything Pete hates about his childhood. Yet there's a hint that she was trying to do right by him in her own twisted way.

SCENE CONTEXT

Pete's mother has just died. Grandma is waiting for him with a white handwritten note—presumably his mother's suicide note. She has to tell this grieving child that his mother is dead and that she's now his guardian. She delivers the news with blunt efficiency, hiding any emotion behind practical authority.

GRANDMA

There is no easy way to say this,
but your mother has passed away.
She left me as your guardian and I
will take care of you from now on.
(breathes and re-
concentrates)

We will stay in this house and you
will go to school and do whatever I
tell you to do until you are old
enough to leave... That's what your
mom would have wanted.

YOUNG PETE

May I ask how she died?

GRANDMA

(thinks) No.