

Three-Meter Board

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Denise loved swimming. She loved diving more.

Splashing around in the water was great. Holding her breath under water was fun, too. Still, none of that was as fun as actually jumping into the water.

The best thing for that was a diving board. At her neighborhood pool, they had three diving boards. Two of them were short. They were called one-meter boards. A meter was like three feet.

One-meter boards were not scary. As soon as you jumped off them, you splashed into the water. They were quick and fun.

The last diving board was not a one-meter board. It was a three-meter board. Three meters was like ten feet. That was more than twice as tall as she was. It was scary. Jumping off that one was like being in a movie. In movies, heroes jumped off cliffs or out of buildings and landed in the water. It was dangerous!

Every time she went to the swimming pool, Denise saw people jump off the three-meter board, but she never tried. It looked thrilling! She wanted to jump off it, but she wasn't brave enough to.

Today, she thought she could do it. She'd practiced by jumping as high as she could on the one-meter board. Falling farther into the water that way wasn't scary, so how scary could the three-meter board be?

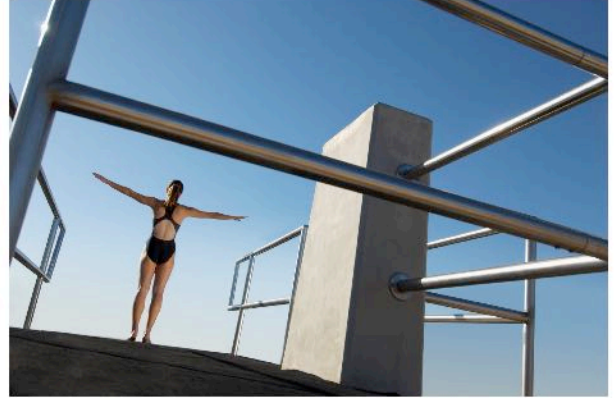
One boy went up the ladder ahead of her. He was her age, so if he could do it, why not her? She followed him up, trying not to let her legs shake too much as she went. She saw the boy disappear over the last steps and then heard a splash. It was her turn!

At the top, everything looked small. She tiptoed to the end of the diving board. The pool seemed so far away! She saw the boy who had jumped before her. He had just reached the edge of the pool. He was smiling like he would jump again.

Denise took a breath. She stepped to the edge and then jumped off.

Her stomach lurched and she caught her breath. For a long moment, it seemed like she'd fall forever. Then, she hit the water and sank like a rock! The sounds of water swirling over her head and bubbles rising around her made her smile.

With a few strong sweeps of her arms, she reached the surface and cheered. It was fun. It wasn't scary at all!



Three-Meter Board

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does Denise like to do?
 - A. play soccer
 - B. play volleyball
 - C. go fishing
 - D. go swimming

2. What part of swimming does Denise like best?
 - A. splashing
 - B. diving
 - C. holding her breath
 - D. marco polo

3. What are the two kinds of diving boards at the pool?
 - A. one meter and two meter
 - B. two meter and three meter
 - C. three meter and four meter
 - D. one meter and three meter

4. How does Denise feel about the three-meter board in the beginning of the story?
 - A. she thinks it is scary
 - B. she thinks it is silly
 - C. she thinks it is not fun
 - D. she thinks it is awesome

5. What finally makes Denise face her fear of the three-meter board?
 - A. her dad goes with her
 - B. her friend jumps at the same time
 - C. her teacher teases her into going
 - D. another boy her age did it, so she did also

Three-Meter Board – Answer Key

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does Denise like to do?
 - A. play soccer
 - B. play volleyball
 - C. go fishing
 - D. go swimming**

2. What part of swimming does Denise like best?
 - A. splashing
 - B. diving**
 - C. holding her breath
 - D. marco polo

3. What are the two kinds of diving boards at the pool?
 - A. one meter and two meter
 - B. two meter and three meter
 - C. three meter and four meter
 - D. one meter and three meter**

4. How does Denise feel about the three-meter board in the beginning of the story?
 - A. she thinks it is scary**
 - B. she thinks it is silly
 - C. she thinks it is not fun
 - D. she thinks it is awesome

5. What finally makes Denise face her fear of the three-meter board?
 - A. her dad goes with her
 - B. her friend jumps at the same time
 - C. her teacher teases her into going
 - D. another boy her age did it, so she did also**