

Monday 4th May 2020

Good morning all.

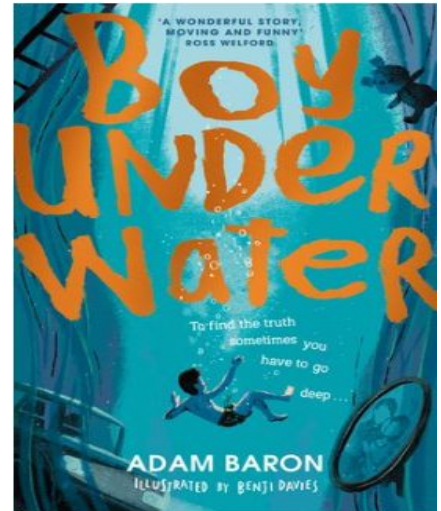
Thank you for continuing with your

Guided reading.

This week we are going to be looking at

A book by the author, Adam Baron.

The book is called Boy under water.



WALT – use retrieval skills to answer questions

WALT – use inference skills to answers questions

1. **First, look at the front cover of the book. What do you think it is going to be about?**

Here's something you won't believe.

I, Cymbeline Igloo, have never been swimming.

It's the swimming bit you won't believe, by the way, though if you don't believe my name either, it really *is* Cymbeline Igloo, and you have to believe that because it's written on my schoolbag and in my jumpers and on lots of other things, like my passport. You won't believe I've never been swimming because I mean totally never. Not *ever*. Not once, in my whole life. I am nine years old! I am the third-best footballer in Year 4 (joint) and the second-best at roller-skating after Elizabeth Fisher and she goes to a club on Sundays. I am fit and healthy and totally normal in every way (apart from my name) but I have never set foot in the sea, a river or a lake, not to mention an actual, normal, everyday swimming pool.

Not in my life.

Until last Monday.

I blame my mum. Totally. She's just never taken me. Not as a baby, not as a toddler, not when I was at nursery or when I was in Key Stage One. When I've asked why, she's come up with rubbish excuse after even *more* rubbish excuse. We don't go to

the beach because she's allergic to sand. Rivers, *she says*, are where crocodiles live (we live in south-east London). Lakes, she *tells* me, are like lochs, which could contain things like the Loch Ness monster, which is so dangerous (not) that no one has ever actually SEEN IT (sorry, Scotland, but it's true: your monster is rubbish).

As for swimming pools, chlorine (what's that?) can make you itchy and you often find clumps of other people's hair in swimming pools and some of it doesn't come from their heads but from *other places*.

That last bit is actually the most convincing argument for staying away from the whole swimming thing, though it's still not good enough and Mum SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ME. This is something that was made spectacularly clear last Monday when something happened that I can only describe as ...

A COMPLETE AND TOTAL DISASTER.

'Line up, everyone. Chop-chop, hurry along now.'

That was Miss Phillips. *Last Monday*. Before I tell you about her, though, I think I'd better answer a question that has probably popped up in your head like toast. Surely, I hear you think, if my mum refused to take me swimming, then my dad could have

taken me instead. I sometimes forget that most people have two parents, something you mostly only ever really see at parents' evening, or the school play. A mum and, next to her, a dad. Looking bored or checking his phone. My best friend Lance, who is joint third-best footballer in Year 4 with me, actually has FOUR parents, because his mum and dad split up and then married other people, who are now his step-mum and step-dad.

This of course is not fair, as it means he's got three more parents than me, something that is true because my dad died when I was one and I don't remember him. He's just pictures on the mantelpiece and the reason Mum starts crying sometimes.

So no dad to take me swimming to make up for the fact that my *mum* simply *never has*.

'Have we all got our togs?'

'Togs, Miss?' Lance asked.

'Swimming things. Towel, goggles, costume.'

'*Costume?*'

'Trunks, in your case, Lance. Not sure a bikini would suit you. Well? Cymbeline, have you got yours? You look a little pale.'

'Yes, Miss,' I said, my voice sounding a bit funny.

'Right then. It's only a short walk. Keep up, everyone.'



Questions:

2. What are the two things that Cymbeline thinks you won't believe?
3. Who is the best roller skater according to Cymbeline?
4. Why does the author write (we live in South London) in brackets?
5. List 2 excuses/arguments that Cymbeline's mother makes to stop her from visiting places with water?
6. Who is joint best footballer with Cymbeline?
7. Why do you think Cymbeline looks a little pale at the end of the text?
8. What do **you** think happened to Cymbeline last Monday?

Answers:

1. First, look at the front cover of the book. What do you think it is going to be about?

2. What are the two things that Cymbeline thinks you won't believe?
He has never been swimming. His name.
3. Who is the best roller skater according to Cymbeline?
Elizabeth Fisher.
4. Why does the author write (we live in South London) in brackets?
There wouldn't be crocodiles in a South London river.
5. List **2 excuses**/arguments that Cymbeline's mother makes to stop her from visiting places with water?
Any 2 -
Beach -she's allergic to sand.
Rivers, she says, are where crocodiles live.
Lakes are like lochs, which could contain things like the Loch Ness monster.
Swimming pools contain chlorine that can make you itchy and you often find clumps of other people's hair in swimming pools and some of it doesn't come from their heads but from other places.
6. Who is joint best footballer with Cymbeline?
Best friend Lance
7. Why do you think Cymbeline looks a little pale at the end of the text?
Example - He is going to a pool and he can't swim.
8. What do **you** think happened to Cymbeline last Monday?