BAG DIVING

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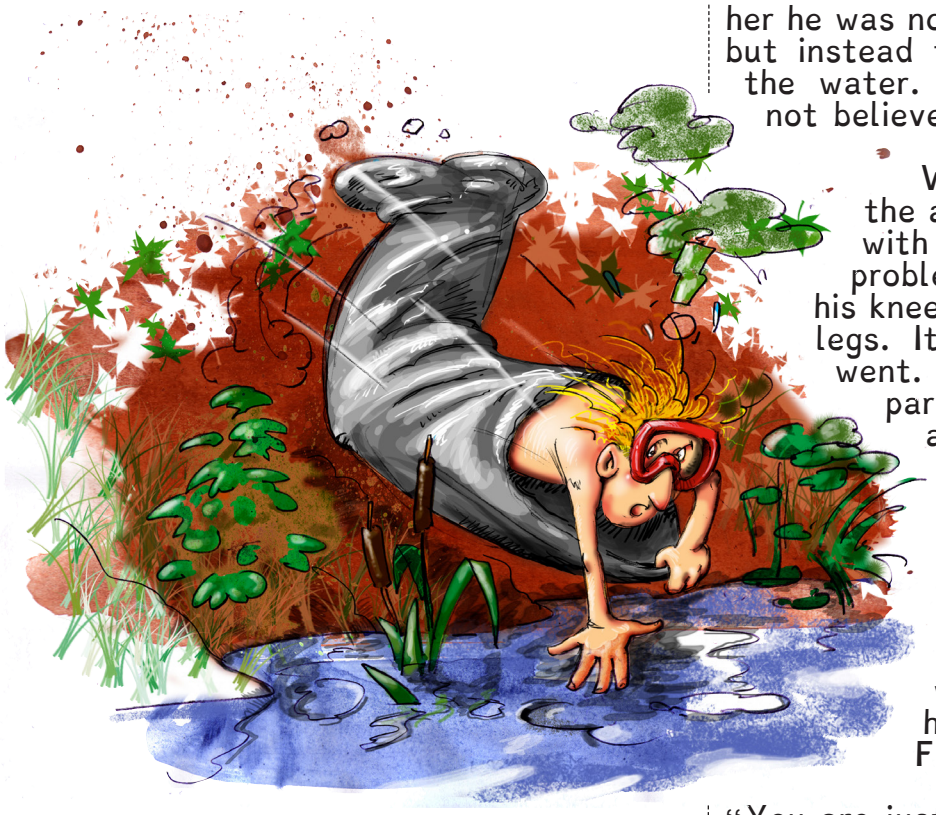

With the autumn's falling leaves, the temperatures began to drop. The warm water at the surface disappeared a little more each day. Skubba had to shorten his time in the water because of the cold. And he did not like it!

Swimming with clothes only gave him a few minutes extra underwater. Once the fabric of his pants and sweater had sucked up the water, he got cold again. His mother was not happy when he came home with a bag of wet clothes, even though he tried to put them in the dryer without her noticing.

Skubba then thought, if you can put wet clothes into a plastic bag, then you can also keep your clothes dry with one. Diving in a plastic garbage bag was not a great success. Firstly, he did not succeed to don the bag without tearing it. Once in the bag, it was an almost impossible task to get into the water. Jumping directly into the water with a bag works well enough from a higher level, but difficult when having to walk in from a slope. During his first few trials, he fell over a few times. His clothes were not only wet, but now filthy. That made Skubba's mother unhappy. It did not help to tell her he was not diving with his clothes on, but instead told her he had fallen into the water. Strangely enough, she did not believe him.

When he finally mastered the art of getting into the water with the bag on, he faced another problem, with standing up above his knees as the bag constricted his legs. It got worse the deeper he went. At the same time, the top part of the bag began to fill with air. He couldn't understand it. This did not happen when he went diving in his swimming trunks. Where was Fred when he needed him?

When he wondered why the water grabbed onto his legs while wearing the bag, he heard laughter. It was Fred. Finally!

"You are just a pear standing in water!" he laughed out loud.

"Why don't you help me instead of laughing at me? Why is this happenening?"

"It's something to do with pressure," Fred explained.

"What pressure?" Skubba asked. "Where is the pressure coming from?"

Fred started to explain the reason step by step. "Pressure occurs when you apply a force on a surface. If you push your hand against a wall, then you exert a force against it3. But you can also consider that your hand exerts pressure. After all, your hand has a certain size which we refer to as the surface. The smaller the surface of your hand, the greater the pressure. If you exercise the same force on a very tiny area, such as the tip of a nail, you could probably make a hole through the wall. So, it is not only important how big the force is, but also how big the pressure is."

"Yeah, I now understand what pressure is, but what has that got to do with me looking like a pear?" asked Skubba after Fred's explanation.