

DOL-FUN

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As the summer progressed, Skubba's number of dives increased. He didn't dive with Nella anymore, at least not every dive. He now dived with other instructors and divemasters.

All his buddies had something special to offer: one always managed to find large fish, the other knew where to find freshwater crayfish, one buddy was able to explain how divers found their way around underwater. Skubba was always learning something new.

Today however, Skubba got to do a dive with Nella. The water had been nice and warm, and clear. They had seen so much. Just like his first dive, Skubba filled out his logbook with Nella. What had they seen?

Fred was happy to look up the fish Skubba had seen in his own book. Pike, carp... all of them were in his book. They were enthusiastic about everything Skubba got to see underwater, as it was something they could share and look over together.

Skubba made a note of everything in his log book that Nella had told him to do underwater, and he also wrote about what he had learned. He also made sure to tell Fred what he had learned during the dive so his friend could be a part of everything.

The icing on the cake was when Nella stuck a nice sticker on his log book page and put a stamp on his card.

He was proud of his book and the dives he had logged.

Suddenly, Skubba's eye caught something Nella had written down in his logbook. "What is that?" he asked. "Look over here," he pointed for Fred to see. "Do you see it?"

It took a while before his friend saw it, but then he said, "What does that mean 2*1?"

Nella had to smile, "That means I'm a two-star Instructor and we write it as 2*1 or 2* Instructor".

"Wow!", they shouted together.

"What is a 2* Instructor?"

"In our diving federation, we work with stars. The more stars you have, the more you have learned about diving and the more dives you have done. You start with one star, and then two, and you go on to four".

"Ah, and you have two stars?", asked Skubba.

"Yes, I'm a two-star instructor. Instructors are very good divers who have learned how to train other divers."

"I want a star too," said Skubba.

"That is possible, but it will take time."

"Why?" they asked in unison.

"Youth divers don't get stars, they get dolphins," Nella said.

"I like that..." said Fred, looking for a

nice picture of dolphins in his book.

"We use dolphins for youth divers, like we use stars for adults."

"Do I first get one dolphin, then two, then three, and then finally four?"

"You would think so Skubba, but it does not work exactly like that," Nella went on. "You will start with a bronze dolphin, then a silver one, followed by a gold one. A bit like the medals in the Olympic games."

"Do you have to get gold as quickly as possible?", asked Skubba.

"No, it is not a contest. Scuba diving is not a competitive sport. The colour of the dolphin shows how good you are as a youth diver and how much you have learned".

"Ah", Skubba looked doubtful, "but haven't we learned a lot already?"

