

DOES FRED DIVE?

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The lovely summer weather allowed our young divers to do what they liked the most, and that was to dive. Even if they were not out diving underwater, Skubba and Fred spent most of their time on the water. They were the best of days.

Sadly though, with the passing of the summer months, the diving season was coming to an end. The weather began to gradually worsen and the water became gradually colder. Soon they would no longer be able to dive in the cold open water and only get to dive in the swimming pool. Skubba felt a little sad. Diving in the pool was fun, but there was much more to explore in open water.

Fred, on the other hand, remained very busy and would go missing for hours at a time. Skubba would sometimes find himself sat alone in the water and his friend was nowhere to be seen. That was not very usual of Fred. When Fred finally did show up and Skubba asked him where he had been, he replied each time with, "Nowhere special."

Normally, he would have told Skubba about what he was working on, or that he had had to look something up, but not this time. What was wrong with Fred?

Then, the last open water dive of the year came. The last one before it got too cold. Skubba was not looking forward to this moment. Why could they not dive every month of the year? They could put on a thicker suit, couldn't they? He would have to ask Nella about that. He slowly got his equipment together and packed it into the car to get to his last dive of the season, but this time, without his trusted friend at his side.



When Skubba arrived at the dive location, he saw that Fred was already there. He was so happy to see him there for his last dive of the season. He liked Fred being around when he dived.

But why did Fred look so nervous? He never got this

way usually. What was he up to?

Fred went to talk to Nella and they pointed to Skubba. Fred listened to the briefing more attentively than usual, and then Skubba heard Fred's name being called out as Nella's buddy. What? Did Fred dive? Skubba did not believe it. Fred was afraid of water. Fred knew everything about diving, but never dived himself.

While Skubba got kitted up, he watched Fred step over to the water's edge fully equipped. Would he be diving today?

Nella and Fred did a buddy check as divers always do, and after they each gave the final OK, they walked down the steps together.

Skubba also walked over to the steps, he did not want to miss this moment. The moment Fred was going to take his first dive underwater!

Nella and Fred put on their fins. Nella jumped into the water first. When she emerged, she turned to face Fred. She gave him the OK sign. Fred replied back that he was ready. Mask on, mouthpiece in, one last check. Before stepping out, he hesitated.

Would he go through with it?

He raised his fin and...