

Waterpark

Level 4

Jake stood in line with his friends. Ben and Darren were laughing and joking around with one another. Jake forced a smile every now and then, but he found it hard to concentrate on anything other than the enormous twisting green tube that seemed to swallow people and then spit them out into a little pool at the other end of the water park. The closer he and his friends got to the front of the line, the more nervous he became. Would his friends believe him if he told them he was feeling unwell? Or could he just be honest? He could just imagine the staring and the giggling he would have to endure as he walked back down the steps past all those people.

He turned around and followed the line of people with his eyes. It stretched down at least six flights of stairs. Standing right behind Jake and his was a family of four. Both kids looked to be at least a couple of years younger than Jake. They were laughing with one another, as if they were simply standing in line to buy a hotdog and milkshake. They didn't seem scared.

"Come on, Jake. You can do it," he said to himself. He knew there was only one way out of this, and it wasn't via the stairs. Jake peered down into the tube. He saw the rushing water carry away another victim as their screams got fainter and fainter. This was torture!

"Okay boys, who's first?" called the young woman sitting on the chair. She swung a whistle around her finger as she looked at Jake and his friends.

Jake hesitated a moment before raising his hand. He steadied his voice as much as he could. "See you at the bottom," Jake managed, with half a smile.

Jake walked over to the mouth of the tube, perching himself on the edge. He felt the cold water pounding against his back. He closed his eyes, took a deep breath and leaned back.



Questions

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1. Why did Jake get more nervous the closer to the front of the line they got?

2. What three options did Jake consider instead of going on the ride?

3. Why did Jake feel as though he couldn't walk back down the stairs?

4. How do you think Jake felt when he saw the family of four waiting in line behind them? Why do you think that?

5. Why did the author use the word 'victim' in the third paragraph?

6. Why do you think Jake volunteered to go first?

7. What do you think Jake will do next? Explain your answer.



Answers

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1. Why did Jake get more nervous the closer to the front of the line they got?

He was scared of having to go down the water slide.

2. What three options did Jake consider instead of going on the ride?

He thought about being honest with his friends, pretending to be sick, and walking back down.

3. Why did Jake feel as though he couldn't walk back down the stairs?

He was too embarrassed, thinking everyone would know he was too scared go down the slide.

4. How do you think Jake felt when he saw the family of four waiting in line behind them? Why do you think that?

Answers may vary. He must have felt like he was being silly feeling so scared of the slide when the young kids in the group weren't worried at all.

5. Why did the author use the word 'victim' in the third paragraph?

The author used the word 'victim' to emphasise the fact that Jake was feeling scared about going down the slide.

6. Why do you think Jake volunteered to go first?

Answers may vary. Jake wanted to get it over and done with.

Jake wanted to look brave in front of his friends.

Jake felt the wait was worse than slide.

7. What do you think Jake will do next? Explain your answer.

Answers may vary. Jake will suggest a different slide for his friends and him.

Jake will choose to go on the same slide again because it wasn't as scary as he thought it would be.