



Swimming lesson

Eddie is having a swimming lesson with his teacher, Mr Tuffman. He has become distracted by a loose tile at the bottom of the pool.

This was Eddie's problem. It always happened. It was what made Tuffman so impatient with him. It was what made Tariq so amused by him. He just couldn't concentrate on what he was supposed to be doing when something else had distracted him. On this occasion he was supposed to be collecting the rubber brick but he was distracted by the loose tile. He couldn't stop himself from pausing to pick at it even though, way back up at the surface, Tuffman would be counting away to himself.

What was particularly interesting about the tile was that it looked like it had never been stuck down properly. It was surprisingly big as well – it must have been about forty or fifty centimetres square – but as Eddie glanced around he noticed that all of the tiles were this size. It was definitely loose. And if it was loose, surely that meant you had to lift it up to see what was underneath it?

Eddie lifted it up to see what was underneath it. As soon as he did so he regretted it. The water seemed to suck him very strongly towards the hole that was revealed. It was just like pulling the plug out of the bath then putting your foot over the plug-hole: suction. Extremely powerful suction.

Instinctively, Eddie put his hands out in front of himself but this only served to make him more streamlined and the power of the sucking water pulled him into the swimming pool's plug-hole. He shot through the hole and into a pipe that wound upwards and downwards, left and right, just like the water-chute tube that he had been in on holiday ... only better! (If you liked that sort of thing, which he did.) Eddie wanted it to go on forever.

This was so much fun. He forgot his swimming lesson, the brick and, most of all, Mr Tuffman's counting. He simply relaxed and let the water shoot him forward but quite suddenly, he popped out of the tube and found himself in water that was colder than the swimming pool that he had left.