

Jake jumped into the ocean for one last swim of the season. It had been a wonderful summer. He had no regrets. His surfing skills had dramatically improved. The feel of the ocean water on his skin was heavenly. Jake kicked his flippers and pushed deeper into the water.

Just then, Jake felt a stinging sensation going down his leg. He glanced down, but the water was too murky to see much. Jake froze in the water. He didn't know what to do. If he moved, he might get hurt even worse. Was it a shark? A biting fish? Fear settled into Jake's body, and he remained as motionless as he could. What was he going to do?

The pain was getting worse, so Jake decided to move. He lunged forward but felt another stinging sensation on his belly. He realized that he had to move—and fast! The pain was severe, and he was beginning to feel weak. He glanced up and

saw his friend David swimming nearby. He called for David to come and help him. It didn't take long before David was right alongside him assessing the situation. David cradled Jake and helped him to shore.

The parents all gathered around to offer first aid and help. Jake would be okay. He had been stung by a stingray. In the commotion, he saw David through the crowd and smiled at him. Jake had just seen a true friend in action, and he knew it!

# STORY QUESTIONS



1

What was Jake's dilemma?

- a. deciding whether to move or stay put in the water
- b. deciding whether to go swimming that day or not
- c. deciding whether to trust David or not
- d. deciding whether to swim deeper or not

2

What would make another good title for this story?

- a. "The Exciting Situation"
- b. "David vs. the Stingray"
- c. "A Call for Help"
- d. "David and Jake"

3

What does the word *murky* mean?

- a. piloted
- b. freshwater
- c. depressed
- d. dark and cloudy



It had snowed all night, and the ski runs were filled with powder. It was going to be a great ski day. Max and his friend Greg were trying to hit the runs early. They would meet up with their friend Phillip in the afternoon. Phillip was just learning to ski, and Max and Greg wanted to give him some lessons.

Swoosh! Max flew down the hill with a big smile on his face. He loved to ski. Max saw Greg just ahead of him, and he decided to catch up. He raced down. In fact, he raced down so quickly that his ski got caught on the back of Greg's skis. This sent Max flying head over heels into a snow bank.

Greg skidded to a stop and hollered out, "Max, are you okay?"

Max wasn't sure what to think. His skis were all jumbled, and his poles were somewhere else. His head was throbbing and his arm felt as though it had been bent backwards.

"Yeah, I think I'm alright."

Just then, the ski patrol skied up to see what the trouble was. Max couldn't stand on his ankle. The ski patrol helped Max onto the stretcher and told him they'd take him to First Aid to get checked out.

Max was awfully embarrassed. He was even more embarrassed when he saw Phillip walking by. Phillip's eyes grew wide. Max just knew he had ruined the idea of skiing for Phillip.

He called out, "Phillip, don't worry. This is all just a publicity stunt!"

# STORY QUESTIONS



- 1 Using inference, what were Phillip's feelings about skiing?
- a. indifferent
  - b. disapproves
  - c. worried
  - d. approves

- 2 Which sentence indicates Phillip's feelings about skiing?
- a. Phillip's eyes grew wide.
  - b. His skis were all jumbled, and his poles were somewhere else.
  - c. He was even more embarrassed when he saw Phillip walking by.
  - d. "Yeah, I think I'm alright."

- 3 Which sentence does not refer to Max's feelings about skiing?
- a. Max flew down the hill with a big smile on his face.
  - b. He loved to ski.
  - c. Max was the best skier in his class.
  - d. Max and his friend Greg were trying to hit the runs early.

