

The following writing example was written by a student who was awarded places at:

- The Latymer School
- Dulwich College
- UCS
- Highgate School
- St Paul's
- City of London



Write a story based on the following title: The Swimming Lesson

(The following work is scribed as the child has written it)

Plan:

- Character is Henry
 - Describe the water
 - Character worried about the lesson - describe the emotion
 - Teacher is horrible- describe - why is he horrible?
 - It was badge day and the character had been working hard to perfect his swimming (backstroke technique) but the teacher instead of praising his efforts, shouted and made him go last.
 - He gets in the pool , does his swim.
 - He receives a badge but not the one he is expecting - he gets a 5m badge instead of the 10m badge.
 - The swimming teacher says, 'well done' in a sarcastic way
 - Another teacher has been watching and is appalled and what he sees. He gives the character an additional badge for effort.
- (United)
- Horrible teacher is embarrassed
 - Character goes home proud of his efforts

Slowly, Henry dawdled into the uninviting changing room. The room reeked of chlorine and the unmistakable smell of feet! It hit his nose like a bullet train and made him feel slightly nauseous. This added to his already nervous- feeling stomach. He craved swimming like nectar from bees but hated his horrible teacher Mr Crunchbull.

He got changed at a snail's pace and reluctantly dragged himself into the cold, shallow water. His body felt like ice and the hairs on his skin stood tall as the freezing water travelled around his body.

“Hey!” shouted Mr Crunchbull, angrily. Henry knew what was coming.

“Henry, you have not worked hard enough, so you are going last!”.

Henry couldn't believe that he had just jumped in and was already being told off by the mean Mr Crunchbull.

He had been working for hours on end to perfect his backstroke.

He sat on the cold wooden bench, waiting impatiently for his turn. When it was finally his turn he slid into the icy water. It felt like the Arctic.

Mr Crunchbull took a deep breath and frantically blew his high pitched whistle. The children in the last race whizzed off like a firework through the sky. Henry willed his tired arms forward; they were splicing the water like knives. He charged on through the spraying, bubbling pool and slammed his excited hand onto the slimy wall.

He was finished.

He turned his willowy body abruptly to see an array of colourful swimming hats seesawing through the wavy water. All of them were bobbing through the water, nearing the finish line. At the end of the race, an *exhausted* Henry found a silver medal around his slender neck and a juniper- green badge on his drenched costume.

The second place medal and the 5 metres badge were awarded to him. Henry was baffled! Hadn't he come first? The friendly swimming coach, Sam, was appalled. He clearly saw that Henry had come first!

