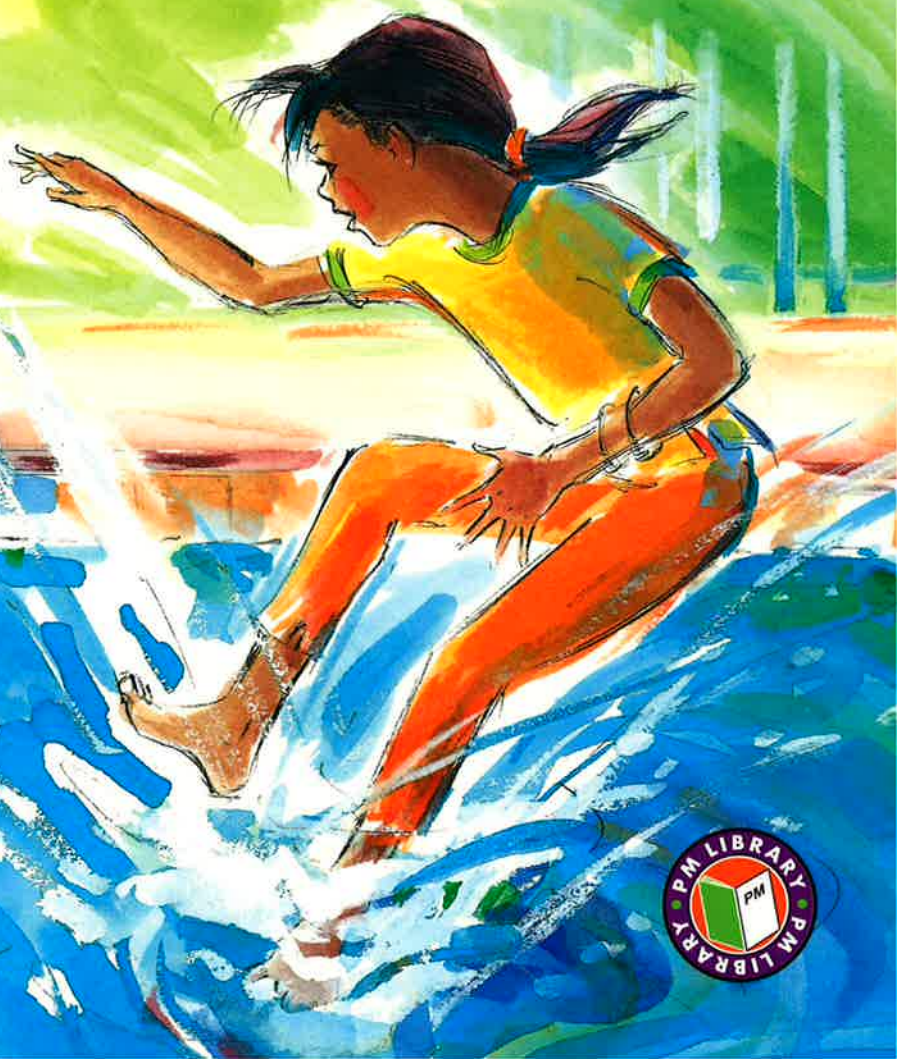
Queen of the Pool

Story by Jan Weeks

Illustrations by Meredith Thomas



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Chapter 1

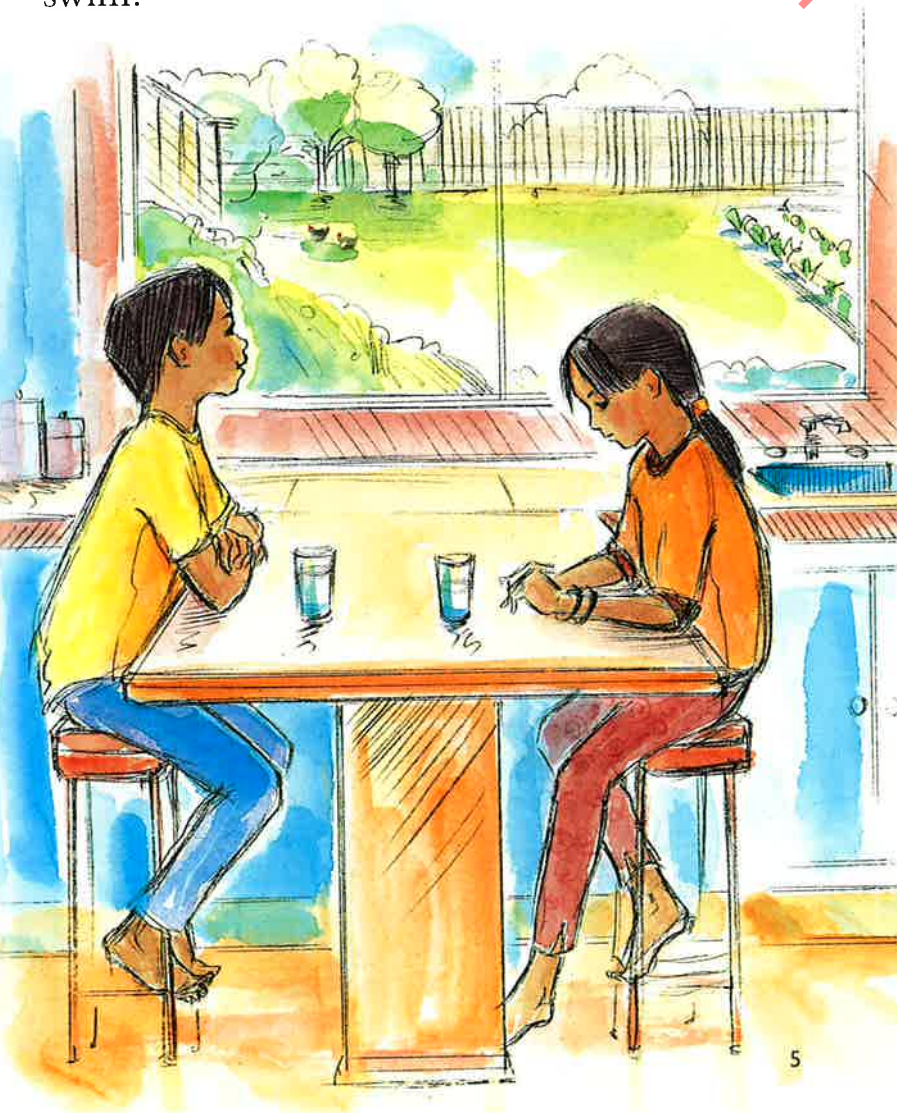
The Promotion



"Why can't we stay here?" Selena asked her father. "I like living in the country. I don't want to leave my friends."

Selena already knew the answer. Her father was a policeman. He'd been transferred to the city, and he had to start his new job in two weeks. It was a big promotion and everyone was pleased about it. Everyone except Selena, that is.

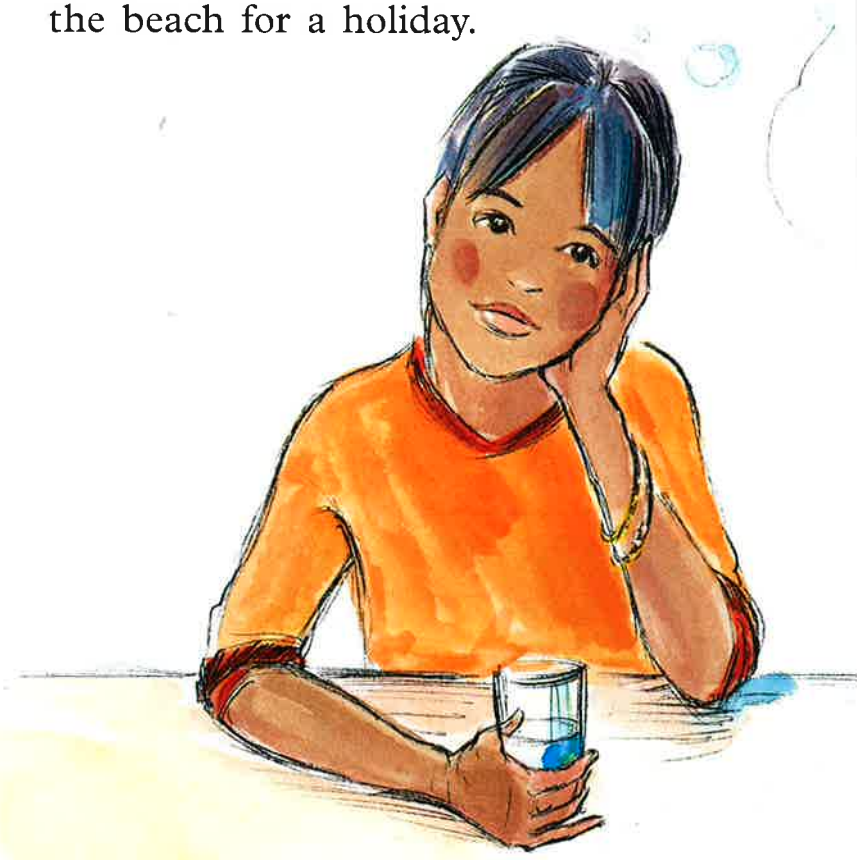
Their new house had a pool in the backyard. "Think how good that will be," her older brother Danny kept saying. "Now Mum will be able to teach us to swim."



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They had never learnt to swim because their town didn't have a public swimming pool.

That hadn't bothered Selena. She'd never wanted to learn to swim. Even thinking about it frightened her. When Selena was three, her family had gone to the beach for a holiday.



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On the first morning, Selena and Danny had a great time running in and out of the shallow waves. That was until a big wave knocked Selena over, bouncing her about on the sand and filling her nose and mouth with salty water.

Her father had come running, but by then a woman had pulled her out of the water. After that, Selena had refused to go anywhere near the water.

"She'll get over it," her father had said. But Selena had never forgotten how scared she'd been.



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