

# The Jump

The heated stones underneath my papery skin made it feel like I was running on hot coals. The constant chatter of my classmates became distant as I focused on the jump. I hesitated slightly as I reached the edge of the old, splintering pier. But I was a train carriage falling off its rails. My momentum overwhelmed my muscles and propelled me in to the heated air. It seemed like time itself had been halted as I reached the peak of my jump.

Then I fell, ungracefully, into the water.

All sound was stolen as water engulfed me. The water around me refreshed me, like an ice block would on a sweltering day. I cautiously opened my eyes and stared in utter wonderment at the indigo kingdom I had entered. I shifted my gaze to the alien creatures around me. Their movements were fluid and effortless, as they pulsed through water.

But this world was not for human eyes to see. The ocean gently pushed me back up to the surface and reality returned. I breathed in the sweet summer air. The joyous laughter of my friends echoed clearly across the peaceful lake. I heard the unmistakable splashes of children as they too immersed themselves in the icy blue.