



What does this man like to do in his free time?

What do you see behind him?

The title of this story is “Four Long Minutes”

What do you think this story is about?

Can you guess what happens?

Four Long Minutes

Bill Lamm loved to scuba dive. He loved to be in the deep water. He loved to look at the beautiful plants and fish. He loved the peace and quiet.

One Saturday afternoon Bill was scuba diving near the Florida coast. He was looking at some beautiful fish. Suddenly, the water pulled him down. Bill tried to swim up. The water pulled him down again.

Bill looked down and saw a huge pipe; it was about 16 feet¹ across. The pipe was on the ocean floor. The water was pulling Bill into the pipe! Again, Bill tried to swim up. Again, the water pulled him down.

A few seconds later, Bill was inside the pipe. The water was still pulling him. Where was he going? What was at the end of the pipe?

Then Bill remembered: There was a nuclear power plant nearby. The pipe went to the

nuclear power plant! What was at the end of the pipe? Probably a pump.

For four long minutes, Bill was in the pipe. He could see nothing. Everything was black. Then Bill saw something blue. What was it? What was at the end of the pipe? It was blue sky! Bill was out of the pipe! He was in a pool of water at the nuclear power plant. Luckily, there was no pump at the end of the pipe. There was only a pool of water.

A worker at the nuclear power plant pulled Bill out of the water. Bill had a few cuts on his legs and arms, but he was not really hurt.

Bill has a new hobby now. He doesn't scuba dive. He collects stamps.

¹ 4.9 meters

VOCABULARY

Complete the sentences with the words below.

hobby	deep	nearby	still	huge
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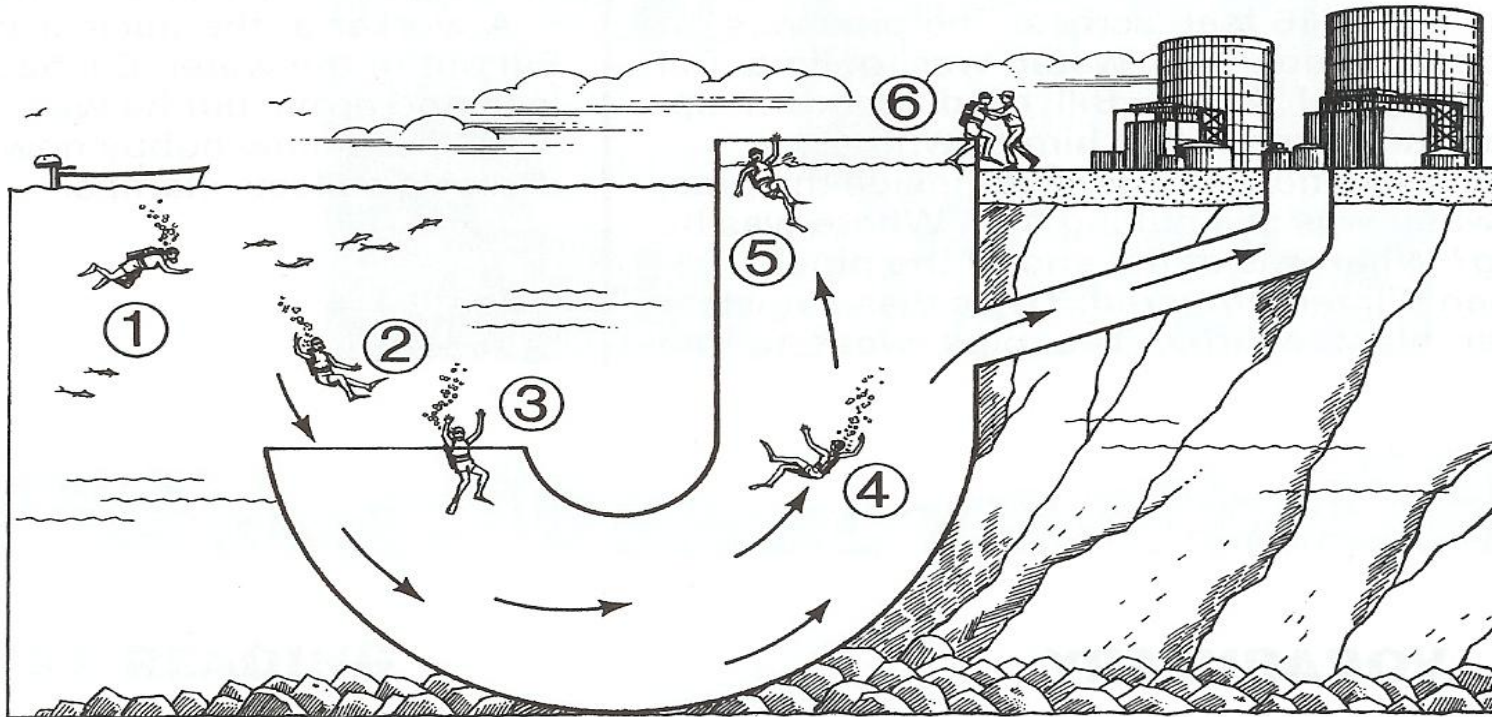
1. When Bill went scuba diving, he jumped into the water and went down ten meters. He loved to be in the _____ *deep* _____ water.
2. The pipe was *very* big. It was _____.
3. When Bill was inside the pipe, the water continued to pull him. The water was _____ pulling Bill.
4. The nuclear power plant was not far away. It was _____.
5. Before, Bill loved to scuba dive in his free time. But now he has a new _____.

COMPREHENSION

UNDERSTANDING SEQUENCE

Match the sentences and the pictures. Write the matching number next to the sentence.

- ___ Bill was inside the pipe for four minutes.
- ___ A worker at the nuclear power plant pulled Bill out of the water.
- ___ The water pulled Bill into the pipe.
- 7 Bill was looking at some beautiful fish.
- ___ The water pulled Bill down.
- ___ Bill saw blue sky.



FINDING MORE INFORMATION

Read each sentence on the left. Which sentence on the right gives you more information? Match the sentences. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

1. b Bill loved to scuba dive.

2. Bill saw a pipe.

3. Bill was not really hurt.

4. Bill has a new hobby.

a. He collects stamps.

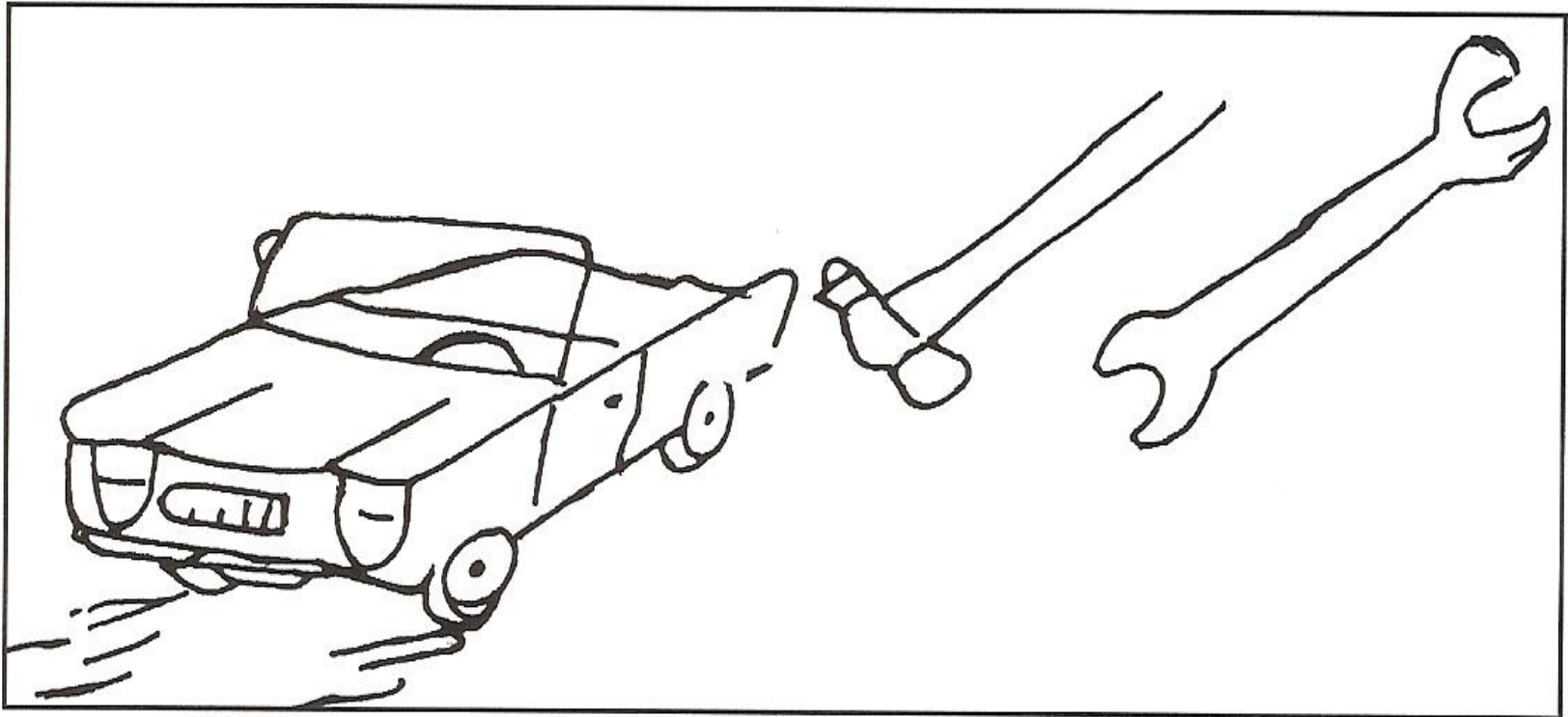
b. He loved the deep water, the beautiful plants and fish, and the peace and quiet.

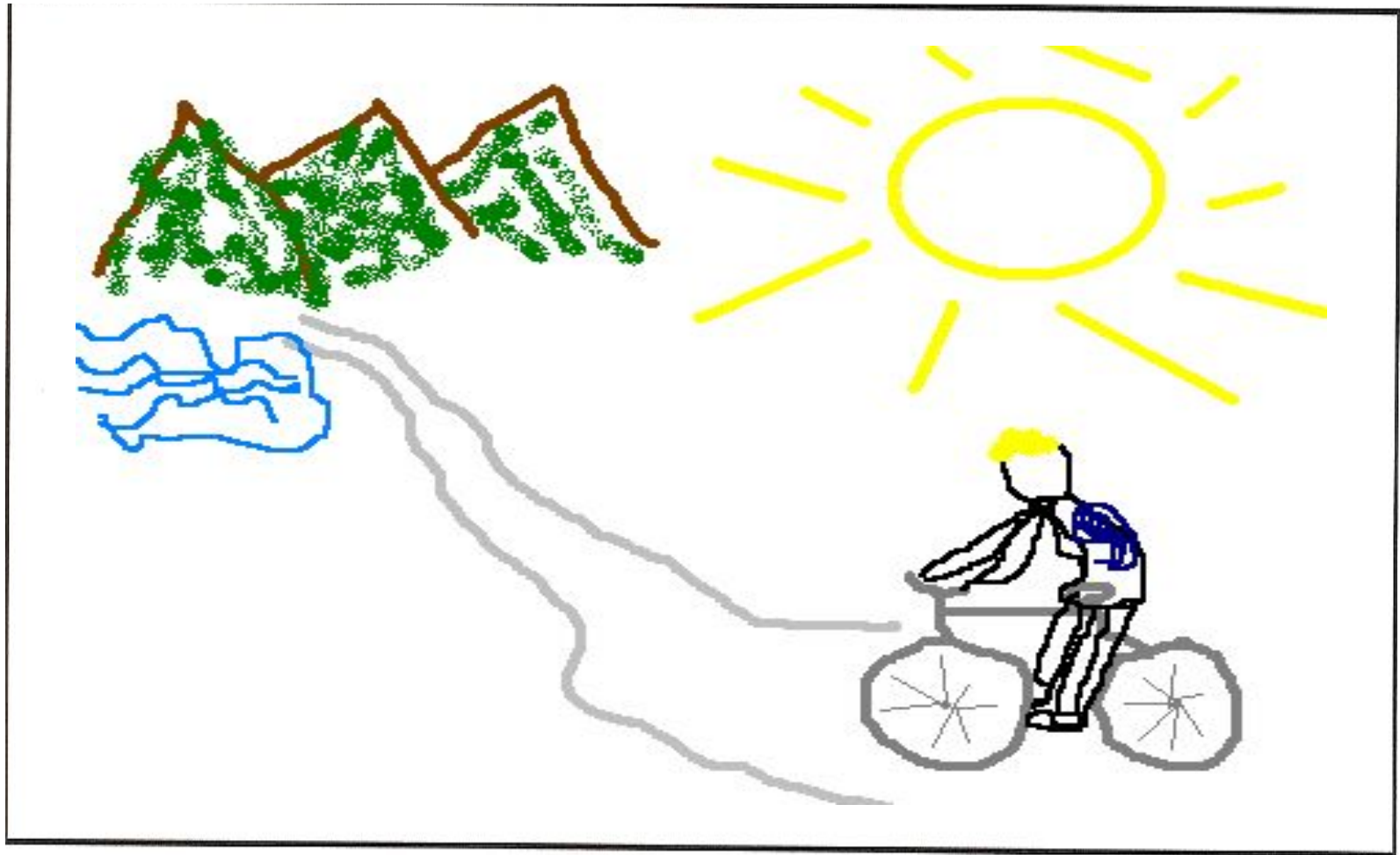
c. He had only a few cuts on his legs and arms.

d. It was huge—16 feet across—and it was on the ocean floor.

DISCUSSION

Bill loved to scuba dive on Saturdays. Imagine this: You have a free Saturday afternoon. What do *you* want to do? Draw a picture. Here is what one student drew. What do you think this student wants to do?





Show your picture to a partner. Can your partner guess what you want to do on a free Saturday afternoon?

WRITING

Imagine this: You have a free Saturday afternoon. What do you want to do?
Make a list. Write your list here.

1. I want to _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____