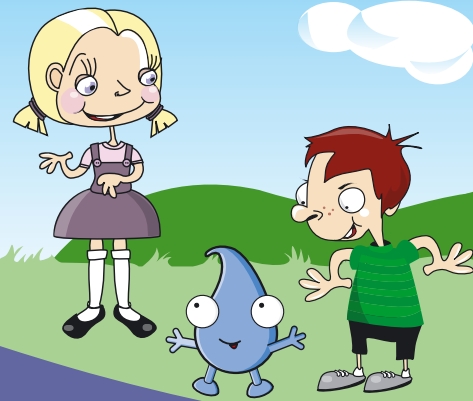


stay safe and stay away!

This is the story of a clever little water drop called Blue and his friends Allie and Jack.



One day, Allie and Jack were exploring when they found a dam that looked like a great place to go for a swim.

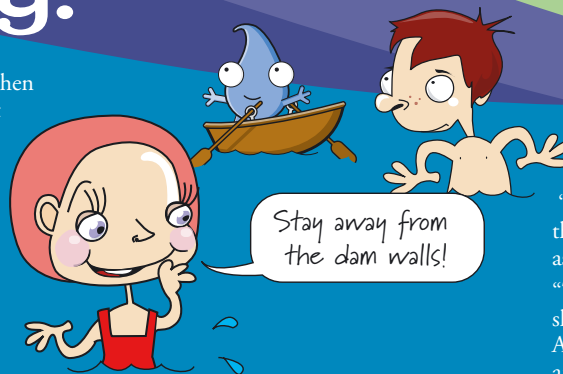
They decided to invite their friend Blue to have a swim too.

"Hey Blue, come for a swim, we found a great waterhole!" said Jack.

"Wait kids!" said Blue.

"You never know what's below. Stick with Blue, he knows what to do!"

"There are many things we should all be aware of when around dams, weirs and water channels. Let's have a look at some of them," said Blue.



Stay away from the dam walls!

Before they could blink, Blue beamed Allie and Jack to a dam.

"The first step to staying safe around dams, weirs and water channels is learning to spot and understand the dangerous things that can happen," explained Blue.

"A good way to do this is to check for signs that warn you of things to be aware of – and ask mum and dad to check for signs too."

"To stay safe when swimming in dams, you should try to stay right away from dam walls. Around 100m is a good distance because there are pipes located in the walls which can suck you in and maybe even cause you to drown."

"So, to stay safe, should we stay away from dam walls?" asked Allie.

"That's right," said Blue.

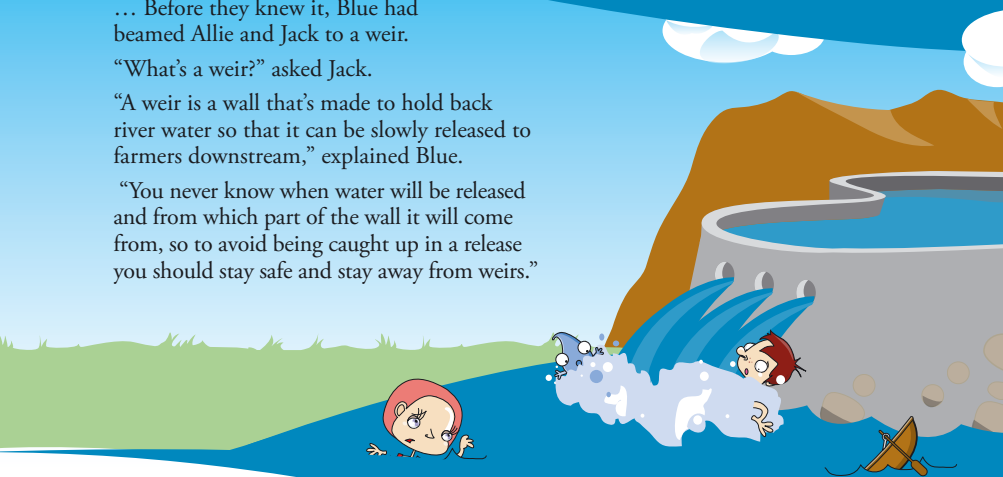
"Stay safe and stay away!"
Next stop, weirs." ...

... Before they knew it, Blue had beamed Allie and Jack to a weir.

"What's a weir?" asked Jack.

"A weir is a wall that's made to hold back river water so that it can be slowly released to farmers downstream," explained Blue.

"You never know when water will be released and from which part of the wall it will come from, so to avoid being caught up in a release you should stay safe and stay away from weirs."



"Ok Blue – **we'll stay safe and stay away from weirs,**" said Allie.

The last stop on Allie and Jack's adventure was a water channel.

"I'm thirsty," said Jack. "That water looks good enough to drink!"

"No Jack!" cried Blue. "There are lots of chemicals placed in channels to help kill off any algae that may be in the water, and that could make you very sick if you drank it."

"Well if I can't drink it, can I go swimming in it?" asked Jack.

"No Jack, **water channels are not a good place to swim,**" said Blue.

"Why?" asked Jack

"For lots of reasons" said Blue.

"Firstly, water levels in channels can change very quickly. There are gates that let water in and out of the channels causing the water levels to rise and fall. These gates are very heavy and if one fell on you it would trap you for sure."

"So stay safe and stay away from gates?" asked Allie

"Stay safe and stay away from gates and any other machinery around dams, weirs and water channels," said Blue.

"Another thing to know about channels is that because of all the algae in the water, the sides are very slippery – so slippery and steep that it's almost impossible to climb out," Blue explained.

"And, just like dams, there are pipes under water in channels that can be impossible to see on the surface. It would be very easy to be pulled into one of these and not make it out the other end safely," Blue explained.

"So stay safe and stay away!" said Jack.

"I think you've got it Jack!" cried Blue.

"I think I'll ask mum to take us to the pool instead. From now on we'll stay safe and stay away from dams, channels and weirs!" said Allie.

"Remember, you never know what's below. Stick with Blue, he knows what to do!" said Jack.

Stay safe and stay away!



Water channels are not a good place to swim!

