

Name:

Day One

Cullen Jones Makes a Splash

Part 1: Silent read

→ Learn how an Olympic Champion helps kids. Read silently.

“In the U.S.,” says Cullen Jones, “Black people don’t swim.” Of course, this isn’t true. Jones himself is African American. He is also one of the best swimmers in the world. Jones means that many African Americans and Hispanic Americans don’t have access to pools or lakes. Many never learn how to swim.

This is risky. Nine Americans drown each day. One-quarter of these drowning victims are kids. African American and Hispanic American kids tend not to know how to swim. So they are more likely to drown than White kids.

Cullen Jones wants to fix this. He works for a water safety program called Make a Splash. He teaches kids to be skillful swimmers, and he teaches parents about water safety. He wants all kinds of people to stop feeling nervous about getting in the water.

Kids love learning from Cullen Jones. Many of them have seen him on television. Jones is a national champion. He swam in two different Olympics and won a gold medal for the 4 x 100 freestyle relay. (“Freestyle” means the athletes choose how to swim.) Jones was also the first African American to hold a world record in swimming.

Jones hopes he can encourage people to get in the water. He said, “I’m hoping that a lot of people will decide to put on some trunks and learn how to swim.”



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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81
92

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124
138

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170
185
197

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229

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How is Cullen Jones helping children?

Why is it safer for kids to know how to swim?

Day One

Cullen Jones Makes a Splash

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

“In the U.S.,” / says Cullen Jones, / “Black people don’t swim.” // Of course, / this isn’t true. // Jones himself is African American. // He is also one of the best swimmers / in the world. // Jones means that many African Americans and Hispanic Americans / don’t have access to pools or lakes. // Many never learn how to swim. //

This is risky. // Nine Americans drown each day. // One-quarter of these drowning victims / are kids. // African American and Hispanic American kids tend not to know / how to swim. // So they are more likely to drown than White kids. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.