

## The Canal

"Now, I do not want you two playing down by Fosseway Canal. You know it's dangerous," said Mrs Mac, digging her hands deep into the washing up bowl. Tom and Tiree nodded as if they understood.

Ten minutes later, at dusk, they reached the old canal. Cautiously, they peered in. The water was very still, black and deep, like a silent black hole. By the bank, they could see a rusted shopping trolley, old crisp packets and soggy newspapers. In the reeds, something rustled. Although it looked calm, it was dangerous and Tom knew it. However, Tom grinned at his brother. He took the swishing rope swing that dangled from an overhanging finger like branch and leaped over the canal. He swung backwards and forwards, whooping like a siren. Although Tiree was laughing, inside his heart was thudding. He knew that he would have to swing over the canal next.

"Are you scared, Tiree?" taunted Tom, staring at him. The early evening sunset was starting to cloud over and the wind picked up. Tiree did not want his brother to think he was a coward so he ran back, leapt out and sailed across the canal, skimming the water with his heels. But half way over, the rope snapped. Crack! Tiree crashed down into the water. Splash! Tom gasped. He knew that Tiree could not swim! At that moment, rain started to fall from the looming clouds.

Desperately, Tom leapt in. At first, he could see nothing - just darkness and rather angry weeds tangling his feet. Then he saw red. It was Tiree's hoodie. Frantically, Tom grabbed it and tugged Tiree to the side. Tiree lay on the bank gasping and wheezing like an old man, droplets of rain pelting down on them both.

Twenty minutes later, they were standing in Mrs Mac's kitchen. They had to explain what had happened and Mrs Mac grounded them for a week! After all, she had warned them often enough. The canal was dangerous. They had been lucky.

now I don't...  
fossaway  
danger  
Mrs Mac  
nodded  
T+T  
Tom Tjere

10min  
old  
cautiously  
peered

dark deep still  
like a silent  
by  
rusty  
old  
Crisp

Although calm  
dangerous  
Tom knew it  
However  
grin

overhanging  
lept  
back  
forward  
whooping

Swishing  
dangled  
ha ha  
next  
Scared?

coward  
ran back  
kept out

1/2 - crack  
That moment  
SPLASH! Tom gasped

Looming  
Desperately  
Frantically  
Tugged

20 min  
After all  
Week!

After all  
Week!