

An Attitude for Gratitude



Name

School

Class

About you...

What is your gender? (please tick the correct box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female

What is your ethnicity?

<input type="checkbox"/>	White-British	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/>	White-Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Asian Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other White Background	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black British-Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed - White and Black African
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black British-African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed - White and Asian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Black Background	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Mixed Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian British-Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Ethnic Background, please state
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian British-Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian British-Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rather not say

What is your religion?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Christianity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikhism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Athiest (non-believer)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judaism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please state
<input type="checkbox"/>	Islam	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hinduism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rather not say

Do you practise your religion?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rather not say

Are you a UK citizen?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, please state your country of citizenship
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

The Blue Oasis

Liz Gulliford

Amir was really excited. He had been looking forward to going to The Blue Oasis for weeks. Antoniusz went there when his grandparents were visiting and he said it had been amazing! Apparently, there were three different waterslides. One was quite slow and a bit curly-wurly. The little children could go on that, provided they were accompanied by an adult. There was also a faster blue slide that you could ride unaccompanied if you were a certain height. Amir, however, was particularly keen to try the red slide which boasted the steepest drop. He knew he would be tall enough.

He jumped out of bed and began to pack his swimming kit into a rucksack. Not long now and he would be celebrating Ben's birthday with his friends. Afterwards there would be a lovely birthday party and Ben had been promised a cake in the shape of a rocket. Ben said his mum and dad planned to use empty, clean baked bean cans as the cake-tins, which Amir thought sounded quite ingenious.

The morning dragged. Amir went to the supermarket with his dad while his mum stayed at home with his baby sister, Latifa. At 12 o'clock the doorbell rang. Amir jumped up to answer it. Mrs Enright and her son Aidan and daughter Aoife were on the step.

'Hiya!' said Amir excitedly.

'I'm going to go on the red one,' said Aidan. 'I can't wait!'

Mr Ahmad handed Amir his coat. 'Have a great time, lads,' he said as he watched his son run up the driveway to Mrs Enright's waiting car.

'Enjoy yourselves,' Mrs Ahmad shouted from the living room. They were off!

Half an hour later Amir was in the pool with some of his friends and their parents. They had to wear special swimming hats to identify them as part of the group. Two members of staff led the party in some games in a shallow part of the pool.

‘Well played guys,’ said one of the members of staff from the centre. ‘Now in a few minutes you’ll all get the chance to enjoy the Blue Oasis’ slides, the wave machine and the water jets. Remember to stay close to the grown-ups and don’t run on the poolside. It’s very slippery.’

‘After that you’ll all get changed and we’ll go up to the room for the party and cake and a few more games’, said the member of staff’s colleague, ‘Now away you go!’

Amir, Aidan, Aoife and Mrs Enright made for the big red slide. There was quite a queue to the top. As they drew near, Amir started to get butterflies. Aidan’s sister Aoife wanted to go first. She didn’t seem to be scared. Amir wondered if she had butterflies too. The red light at the top of the slide turned green and Aoife swung on the bar and launched herself down the chute. Mrs Enright was next. Amir noticed that she didn’t swing on the bar quite as enthusiastically as her daughter had.

‘They’ll wait for us at the bottom,’ said Aidan. ‘I’ll go next.’

‘OK,’ said Amir, a little uncertainly.

‘Seeya,’ shouted Aidan, seemingly very confidently, as he whizzed off.

Amir suddenly felt really scared. He had noticed on his way up the stairs that the chute looked practically vertical and very high. He wasn’t sure how he felt about it now. Amir looked back at the queue behind him. He let the girl behind him go while he waited at the top of the stairs.



‘Excuse me,’ someone asked rather impatiently. ‘Are you going to go?’

Amir just couldn’t do it. He hadn’t realised how he was going to feel. He didn’t feel exhilarated at all. He felt terrified. With a heavy heart he

turned and began trudging down the stairs. When he got to the bottom the others were waiting in the splash pool.

‘I couldn’t do it,’ he said sadly. ‘I was scared.’

‘I was a bit scared,’ admitted Mrs Enright.

‘So was I, to be honest,’ confessed Aidan. ‘It was actually OK. Let’s give it another go later.’

Amir was distracted by the noise that signalled that the wave machine was about to be turned on. Mrs Enright, Aoife, Aidan and Amir made their way into the water. It was a bit like being at a beach. There was a simulated shore. The water got deep quite quickly.

Amir was really enjoying the wave machine and decided to go out a bit deeper into the pool. He had not long swum a length of the baths in his school lessons. He could no longer touch the bottom. The waves grew higher and higher and suddenly he felt quite anxious. He looked around. As he did so, a large wave broke over his head. He began to cough and splutter. He couldn’t see the others. He realised he should not have forged ahead into the pool. He tried to tread water, though he wasn’t very good at it. He could see another wave was looming and he panicked. Inevitably it broke over him and he bobbed about helplessly in its wake.

Amir looked around again. Out of the corner of his eye he noticed something bobbing in the water. In an instant, he recognised that it was a float- and it was within his grasp! He reached out and grabbed it. It was such a relief to get his breath again. After a few moments he began to relax and started kicking his legs, making for the shallower waters

where he could now see Mrs Enright, Aoife and Aidan.

‘That was a bit scary,’ he said as he drew near to them. ‘It was a lot scarier than the slide! That wave machine’s powerful. This was floating past and I grabbed it,’ he said showing them the float.



Let's stop and think about the story so far:

What do you think Amir's friends might say about what happened?

Do you think Amir feels grateful to the float?

Place one of your stickers on what you think is the right response below (there are no right or wrong answers here):

YES

NO

Why do you say this?

How grateful is he?

REALLY
GRATEFUL

QUITE
GRATEFUL

A BIT
GRATEFUL

NOT VERY
GRATEFUL

NOT
GRATEFUL
AT ALL

Is Amir grateful to anything else for getting him out of a sticky situation in the pool?

YES

NO

If yes, who or what is he grateful for?

Do you think Amir is grateful that the float happened to be there when he needed it?

YES

NO

How grateful is Amir that the float happened to be there when he needed it?

REALLY
GRATEFUL

QUITE
GRATEFUL

A BIT
GRATEFUL

NOT VERY
GRATEFUL

NOT
GRATEFUL
AT ALL

Now let's carry on with the story...

'I think I might be ready for the slide now!' said Amir, pleased he had survived his ordeal.

'Yes,' said Mrs Enright. 'Don't drift off like that again. I couldn't see you and although you're OK now you can see how easy it is to get out of your depth.'

'OK,' he promised, knowing from experience that it was true.

They got out of the water and began walking towards the slide. The wave machine was still going. They saw Ben's cousin, Laura standing on

the poolside near the deep end. She looked as if she was about to jump in.

‘Laura, NO!’

It was too late. No one seemed to have noticed Laura’s plunge into the deep end. They didn’t know whether Laura could swim but Mrs Enright said they should find a lifeguard and raise the alarm in any case.

Laura had not done as she was told. She knew that they had been instructed to stay with the adults in the pool for safety reasons but it had been her birthday the weekend before and no one had thrown a pool party for her. Probably, she thought, no one would even care if she went off on her own. She took her chance to slip away when Ben’s mum and her own mother were momentarily distracted by Laura’s two year old sister.

The jump itself had been thrilling but now Laura was in trouble; she just couldn’t get her breath and the waves kept coming. No one seemed to notice her struggling.

‘Help!’ she cried before the next wave rolled in.

Just at that moment a young man on the poolside caught sight of Laura’s flailing arm. He wasted no time in jumping in to rescue her. Mrs Enright saw him going after Laura and noticed that he wasn’t a particularly strong swimmer. Just as she alerted the lifeguard to what had happened she saw Laura frantically grabbing the would-be rescuer and pulling him down into the water. He was in trouble now too.

The lifeguard dived in and swam towards the pair. She separated the man from Laura’s desperate clasp and towed Laura towards the edge of the pool. The young man, probably just a teenager, retrieved a float that had been tossed to him from the poolside and began to kick towards the poolside. Just as they all reached the rail, the wave machine stopped. Someone had thrown the switch. It had all happened so quickly!

Laura was very shaken by what had happened.

‘I just couldn’t get my breath,’ she said. A group of people had gathered on the poolside, including Laura’s mum and auntie.

‘What were you thinking?!’ said Laura’s mother.

‘You know how important it is not to go off on your own!’

‘I’m sorry,’ Laura said sheepishly.

‘This man went after you and you almost drowned him!’ Laura’s mother said.

‘I’m really sorry,’ she said. ‘I panicked and grabbed you.’

‘That’s what happens,’ said the lifeguard. ‘Unless people are trained at lifesaving like we are it’s often dangerous to attempt a rescue. It’s all in a day’s work for us though.’

Laura was silent for a few seconds. ‘I was so scared,’ she said at length.

‘I’m just doing my job,’ replied the lifeguard.



Let’s pause for some more questions...

Do you think Laura should be grateful to the lifeguard for getting her out of difficulties even though it is her job to do that?

YES

NO

Why do you say that?

How grateful to the lifeguard do you think Laura would be?

REALLY GRATEFUL	QUITE GRATEFUL	A BIT GRATEFUL	NOT VERY GRATEFUL	NOT GRATEFUL AT ALL
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Why do you think the lifeguard said she was 'just doing her job'?

Do you think you would be more grateful to the man who tried to save you or to the lifeguard who saved you? Why?

How grateful do you think Laura would be to the man who tried to save her?

REALLY GRATEFUL	QUITE GRATEFUL	A BIT GRATEFUL	NOT VERY GRATEFUL	NOT GRATEFUL AT ALL
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Let's return to the story...

'I won't ever do it again,' said Laura. 'I was just trying to draw attention to myself.'

'You certainly managed that alright!' said the lifeguard.

'It was a stupid thing to do,' continued Laura.

'Well, it's a lesson learned,' said Laura's mother patiently.

Amir had to agree. It had been brought home to him that while the pool and the wave machine could be great fun, you had to be careful. Things could go wrong if you pushed yourself too far or behaved irresponsibly. Amir realised that he should have been more scared of the water than of the slide.

'I'm going to go back to the red slide,' he said to everyone.

'OK,' said Mrs Enright. 'We'll come with you.'

'I want to get changed now,' said Laura. She was shivering a little bit.

Mrs Enright, Aidan, Aoife and Amir went back to the slide while Laura and her mum returned to the changing room. It would soon be time to enjoy the party food and games upstairs. At the top of the slide Amir paused and looked around the leisure pool. He could see everything from up here. Once again he thought it was funny how he had been scared of the slide though he hadn't really considered the more real dangers of the water. When the green light showed he swung on the bar and launched himself down the chute. It was exhilarating!

Amir got out of the splash pool to wait for the others. Aidan came next.

'Whooooa!' he cried as he came to a stop.

'That was amazing!' Amir said enthusiastically. 'Let's do it again!'

Mrs Enright didn't feel like climbing the stairs again so she said she'd wait at the bottom. Aidan and Amir paired up with Ben's dad as they all re-grouped by the changing rooms. The slide had been just as good as Amir had hoped. And Ben's rocket cake was still to come!

Half an hour later everyone was upstairs in the room where the refreshments would be served. Amir filled his plate with quiche, cheese straws, samosas and chocolate fingers. Normally he wouldn't have sweets and savouries on the same plate but it was a party and the adults didn't seem to mind. Twenty minutes into the feast the lights were dimmed and Amir spotted the glow of candlelight. It was time for Ben to blow out the eleven candles on his cake.

'Happy birthday to you... ' sang Ben's parents, walking towards him with the cake.

Amir looked towards Ben, who in turn looked a little puzzled. The cake was not rocket shaped at all. It was an ordinary iced round cake with eleven candles on it. There was a pale blue ribbon around it and a picture of Donald Duck on the top. This was not a cool cake. It was lame- a lame duck! Amir was no expert but he could see that it had been bought from a shop. He felt for Ben, who had told everybody how excited he was about the homemade rocket cake.

'Happy birthday to YOU!' everybody sang. Ben blew the candles out and made a wish.

'What happened to the rocket?' said Laura, who seemed to be back to her usual self.

'I'm sorry, Ben,' said Mrs Turner to her son. 'We've been so busy- your father and I- we just didn't have time to get the ingredients to make the rocket cake. It takes a long time to do, and then it has to be iced. We've been run off our feet getting ready for the party and buying the food for that. We didn't think you'd mind if we bought a cake from the supermarket.'

'Yes', said Mr Turner. 'We're sorry it wasn't what you were expecting.'



Some questions...

How do you think Ben feels?

Do you think Ben is still grateful for the cake, even though it wasn't what he was expecting?

YES

NO

Why do you say that?

How grateful do you think Ben is for the Donald Duck cake?

REALLY
GRATEFUL

QUITE
GRATEFUL

A BIT
GRATEFUL

NOT VERY
GRATEFUL

NOT
GRATEFUL
AT ALL

Now back to the story:

‘That’s OK,’ said Ben. ‘I understand. You’ve laid on a great party, thank you.’

‘Yes,’ said Amir reflecting on the events of the day. ‘I know *I’ll* never forget it!’

‘Me too’, said Laura emphatically.

The room was silent for a few moments.

‘Let’s cut the cake!’ said Ben happily. ‘It’s been quite a day!’





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