

Diving in...

The gentle turquoise waters rippled and battered lightly against my sleek and pristine canoe, making it see-saw precariously as I maintained balance – like walking on a tightrope. I calmly pulled on my blue wetsuit and prepped my mini-oxygen tank before taking a look at the depths below me. Ploosh! I dived head-first and broke the frothing surface as the burbling of water covered my ears and I slipped into another world.

The water was cold. I could feel it around my face but the suit trapped a thin layer of warm air that kept me snug. Looking through my crystal-clear goggles, I could see underwater as clear as the morning sky. With a couple of delicate strokes of my flippers, I propelled towards the magnificent coral reef that nestled at the bottom. Air bubbles rushed past me, obscuring my view as I took deep breaths from my oxygen tank.

The reef was an underwater paradise. A large, living and breathing structure consisting of a host of unimaginable living things, all together in harmony. The sight of it made me catch my breath. I was gazing at another world and all I could do was float there, motionless as I tried to take it all in. I could see some crimson-red anemones that swayed from side to side as the ocean currents surged past. Some golden fish were hidden amongst them, seeking shelter from any predators. A majestic sea turtle glided gracefully up from behind. I could see its patchy green shell and a dusky yellow body. It was a survivor of the sea with its ability to live for decades amidst the dangers that lurked in every corner. A sting-ray had meticulously camouflaged itself under the fine grains of sand, waiting as a silvery-grey salmon mindlessly drifted closer.

Questions

1. How is the main character travelling on the water at the beginning of the story?

2. Why didn't they feel cold even though the water was cold?

3. Find and copy a phrase that shows they were stunned by the view of the coral reef.

4. Find and copy a noun phrase that describes the anemones.

5. Find two ways the sea turtle is described that make it sound impressive.

6. Why is this a good opening to a story?
