

**Short
Read**

Zach Jumps In!

1 **M**y big brother Zach is a **unique** guy. There is no one like Zach. Most people admire him because he's such a strong athlete, but I admire him because he worked really hard to become one. You see, Zach is an amazing swimmer. Not just a fast or strong swimmer, but a champion swimmer. His ability is especially unusual because Zach was once terrified of the water!

2 When Zach was five, he fell into our neighbor's swimming pool. The water wasn't over his head. Still, he was REALLY scared. Mom quickly pulled Zach out of the pool. He was fine, but after that day, he hated the water.

3 Then Zach went to summer camp when he was ten. By that time, he loved sports. He was an excellent baseball and basketball player. He was very competitive and practiced a lot. That might be a main **feature** of Zach's **personality**. He always wants to win.

4 The one sport Zach couldn't win in was swimming. He was too afraid of the water to learn how. It made him mad that he was afraid.

5 So Zach made a plan. He needed a little help from a counselor named Trip. Each day, Trip took Zach to the lake, and each day, Zach inched toward the water. One day he finally put in one toe. The next day he put in his whole foot. In a week, he had walked in up to his knees! Then Zack did the bravest thing he had ever done. He jumped right in!

6 Zach likes to show his **individuality** by doing things differently. No camper had ever gone from not knowing how to swim to being a camp champion. Zach did that. He practiced and practiced. By the end of the summer, he won the camp swim meet. After that summer, Zach joined the swim team at his school. He's been swimming in competitions ever since.

7 Now Zach thinks there is nothing he can't do. He said his next challenge is to dive from the highest diving board. Oh, brother!