Name: _____ Date: _____

# Wen and the Backward Flip Turn

Circle group

At swim practice, Coach Ruiz taught the flip turn. You swim to the wall. You tuck into a roll under the water. You push off with your feet and keep going. Wen's friends made it look easy.

When Wen tried it, he forgot which way was up. He bumped the wall with his knee. He swallowed pool water. He came up coughing. The next lane laughed.

For three days, Wen touched the wall with his hand and turned the slow way. He told himself flip turns were for other kids.

On day four, Coach Ruiz knelt at the pool edge. "Try just half," she said. "Stop in the middle of the pool. Practice only the roll. No wall."

Wen felt silly, but he tried. Tuck, roll, and straighten. He did it again and again. With no wall, his body began to learn the move.

On Friday, he swam to the wall and counted strokes. One, two, three. He tucked, rolled, and planted both feet. Whoosh! He shot off the wall like a rocket.

Wen came up and grinned. Nobody laughed. His lane cheered.

## Questions

**1. What is a flip turn?**

_____

_____

**2. What went wrong when Wen first tried it?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Wen do for three days?**

_____

_____

**4. What did Coach Ruiz tell him to practice?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did practicing away from the wall help?**

_____

_____

**6. What did Wen count?**

_____

_____

**7. How did Wen feel at the end?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

tuck: to pull your arms and legs in close to your body
lane: a narrow strip of a pool for one swimmer
planted: set firmly in place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Wen and the Backward Flip Turn

Triangle group

At swim practice, Coach Ruiz taught everyone the flip turn. You swim toward the wall, tuck into a somersault underwater, push off with your feet, and keep going without stopping. Wen's friends made it look easy.

When Wen tried it, he forgot which way was up, so he bumped the wall with his knee and swallowed a mouthful of pool water. He came up coughing, and the swimmers in the lane next to him laughed.

For three days, Wen just touched the wall with his hand and turned around the slow way, because he told himself that flip turns were only for other swimmers.

On the fourth day, Coach Ruiz knelt by the pool edge. "Try it in pieces," she said. "Stop in the middle of the pool, in the deep water, and practice only the somersault. There is no wall out there to worry about."

Wen felt silly, but he tried. He tucked, rolled, and straightened out, and then he did it again. With no wall to worry about, his body started to remember the shape of the move.

On Friday, he swam toward the wall and counted strokes in his head. One, two, three. He tucked, rolled, and planted both feet. Whoosh! He shot away from the wall like a rocket.

Wen popped up and grinned. Nobody laughed this time. His whole lane cheered.

## Questions

**1. What is a flip turn?**

_____

_____

**2. What went wrong when Wen first tried it?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Wen do for the next three days instead?**

_____

_____

**4. What did Coach Ruiz tell him to practice?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did practicing away from the wall help Wen?**

_____

_____

**6. What did Wen count to know when to tuck?**

_____

_____

**7. How did Wen feel at the end of the story?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

somersault: a roll where your body turns over in a ball
tuck: to pull your arms and legs in close to your body
lane: a narrow strip of a pool for one swimmer
planted: set firmly in place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Wen and the Backward Flip Turn

Square group

At swim practice, Coach Ruiz taught everyone the flip turn. As you approach the wall, you tuck into a somersault beneath the surface, plant your feet against the tiles, push off hard, and keep swimming without pausing. Wen's teammates made the whole maneuver look effortless.

When Wen attempted it, however, he completely lost track of which way was up. His knee banged against the wall, he swallowed a mouthful of pool water, and he surfaced coughing while the swimmers in the neighboring lane laughed at him.

For three days afterward, Wen simply touched the wall with his hand and turned around the slow way. He convinced himself that flip turns were meant for other swimmers.

On the fourth day, Coach Ruiz knelt at the edge of the pool. "Try it in pieces," she suggested. "Stop in the middle of the pool, in the deep water, and practice only the somersault. There is no wall to worry about out there."

Wen felt a little foolish, but he gave it a try. Tuck, roll, and stretch out straight. He repeated it again and again, and without a wall in the way, his body gradually began to remember the shape of the movement.

On Friday, he swam toward the wall, counting his strokes silently. One, two, three. He tucked, rolled, and planted both feet firmly. Whoosh! He shot away from the wall like a rocket.

Wen popped up grinning. Nobody laughed this time. His whole lane erupted in cheers.

## Questions

**1. How is a flip turn performed?**

_____

_____

**2. What went wrong the first time Wen tried the turn?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Wen do for the next three days instead?**

_____

_____

**4. What did Coach Ruiz tell him to practice?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did practicing away from the wall help Wen?**

_____

_____

**6. What did Wen count to know when to tuck?**

_____

_____

**7. How did Wen feel at the end of the story?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

somersault: a roll where your body turns over in a ball
tuck: to pull your arms and legs in close to your body
lane: a narrow strip of a pool for one swimmer
planted: set firmly in place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: Wen and the Backward Flip Turn

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: Wen and the Backward Flip Turn

Easier · 183 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. A roll under water at the wall, then a push off with the feet.
2. He forgot which way was up and bumped his knee.
3. He touched the wall and turned the slow way.
4. Only the roll, in the middle of the pool.
5. He could learn the move without fear of hitting the wall.
6. His strokes.
7. Proud and happy, because he did the turn.

### Triangle: Wen and the Backward Flip Turn

This passage · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. A somersault underwater at the wall, then a push off with the feet.
2. He forgot which way was up and bumped his knee on the wall.
3. He touched the wall with his hand and turned the slow way.
4. Only the somersault in the middle of the pool, with no wall.
5. He could learn the move without worrying about hitting the wall.
6. His strokes.
7. Proud and happy, because he finally did the turn.

### Square: Wen and the Backward Flip Turn

Harder · 246 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. You tuck into a somersault underwater, plant your feet on the wall and push off.
2. He lost track of which way was up and banged his knee on the wall.
3. He touched the wall with his hand and turned the slow way.
4. Only the somersault, in the deep water in the middle of the pool.
5. He could learn the movement without worrying about hitting the wall.
6. His strokes.
7. Proud and delighted, because he had finally succeeded.