

Full speed ahead into the cool water



Aki is happy as he comes out of the woodworking shop. That was fun! But now he is looking forward to the pool. In a corridor he discovers a sign with the word "Pools" written on it and an arrow. "Great," the eagle thinks to himself, "it won't be too hard to find!"

And he doesn't need to search for long before he is standing in front of a huge swimming pool. Several families are already splashing about in it. The whole place is filled with the jubilant shouts of two children, who are practising cannonballing into the water. On top of this, Aki can hear the splashing of swimmers plunging their arms into the water. And he notices something else too - it is lovely and warm here. So much so that everyone can hardly wait to leap into the water. Which is what the little eagle does next.

Energetically, he shoots into the air, does a somersault and plunges head first into the water. It is just the right temperature for spending hours bobbing up and down.

Suddenly the little eagle hears excited chatter coming from further back. He decides to take a closer look.

A number of families are standing at a kind of tunnel exit and they seem to be planning something.

"Hello! What are you doing? Are you going on a caving expedition?" Aki asks the group bravely.

The families don't seem to understand what Aki means and look around in surprise.



“Do you mean this tube? It isn’t a cave, it’s a water slide. They are super long and super fast, and we are just about to have a race,” a small girl pipes up.

“Wow, that sounds really exciting!” Aki is fascinated. And now he notices the board next to the tube. It shows the time taken to slide down it. And he notices even more. There isn’t just one of these slides. On another slide, whooping children are racing to the finish with giant tyres. The eagle discovers yet another slide that looks like several waves leading into the pool side by side. “I’ll have to try that one out too,” Aki thinks to himself.

The girl brings him back from his thoughts, “You can join in if you like. We only have to put everyone into different categories so that things are fair.”

There are three categories - parents, bigger children and smaller children. But where does Aki fit in? He is neither an adult nor a child.

The little girl notices that Aki doesn’t know what to do and has an idea, “We need another category - animals!”



Everyone agrees and so Aki can join in. The action starts! First of all come the parents. With wild cries they quickly swoosh down the slide. The fathers especially are very enthusiastic. Everyone wants to be the fastest. Some are so high-spirited that they reach the bottom in the funniest poses. Which is very much to the children’s delight, who laugh at the tops of their voices.

Next it’s the turn of the smaller children. They too give it everything they’ve got. But for them the main thing is to have fun. Sliding is just the best! The little girl who helped Aki is a long way ahead.

And the bigger children, who come next, are already real pros. Each has their own trick for sliding faster. They work super hard to reach the bottom.

Now Aki starts to feel an excited tingling in his stomach. It’s his turn! Bravely he clammers up the steps to the top. At the entrance to the slide are red lights. The children have explained to him that he has to wait for the lights to turn green before starting. And then it’s time! The lights switch to green.

Aki jumps into the tube. “This is the best feeling in the world!” thinks the eagle to himself. The speed, the jostling and the water splashing him - simply wonderful!

Suddenly it gets light and Aki shoots straight out of the tube to the finish line.

Everyone celebrates! Aki looks up at the board. He was quick, but not as quick as the children who went before him.

“For your first time, that was amazing!” says a big boy enthusiastically.

Aki beams. But the best thing of all was the feeling in the slide and the sensation of excitement in his tummy.

And suddenly he has another kind of feeling in his tummy that has nothing to do with the slide. Aki is hungry! Does this amazing place have something to help with that too?