

Name: _____

Pool Party

by Kelly Hashway

"Here you go," Melanie said, handing Ava an envelope.

"Thanks," Ava said. "But what is it?"

"An invitation to my pool party. It's Saturday at two."

Melanie kept talking but Ava wasn't listening. The

words *pool party* echoed through her mind. Ava couldn't swim. Every time she tried to learn she'd wind up with water up her nose and she'd be out of the pool as quickly as possible.



"You're

"Huh?"

"Do you

basketball ha



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e floating

Ava didn't know what to say. Melanie was one of her best friends. She couldn't miss her party. But she didn't want the whole school to find out she couldn't swim. "I think I might be busy this Saturday." Ava saw the disappointment on Melanie's face. "Maybe I could stop by for a little while, but I definitely wouldn't have time to swim."

Ava spent the rest of the school day dodging Melanie's questions about what she had to do on Saturday and why she couldn't stay for the whole party. Ava felt awful. That night she begged her parents to ground her or make other plans so she couldn't go to Melanie's party.

"Ava, this is silly," her mother said. "Melanie is your friend. She won't care that you can't swim."



Ava wasn't so sure.

"Just be honest with Melanie," her father said.

When Saturday arrived, Ava's parents drove her to the party right on time. They had even convinced her to wear her bathing suit under her clothes.

"You don't have to go in the water, but you might get splashed," her mother insisted.

Melanie ran up to Ava the moment she stepped out of the car. "You made it! The party would've been ruined if you weren't here."

Ava's stomach lurched. Melanie was a good friend and she deserved the truth. "Mel, I have to tell you something. I didn't really have other plans. I was just afraid to tell you that... I can't swim."

Melan

games. No c

Ava n



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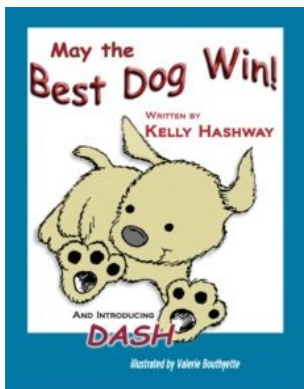
the pool



"It will be," Melanie said, looping her arm through Ava's

and heading toward the pool.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. What happened when Ava tried to learn how to swim?
 - a. She couldn't keep her head above water.
 - b. She got water up her nose and jumped out of the pool.
 - c. Her friends made fun of her.
 - d. She splashed around and had to be rescued.

2. Why did Melanie want Ava to come to the party early?

3. Why did...



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4. Throughout the story, is Melanie being a good friend to Ava? Give two reasons to support your answer.

5. What lesson can be learned from this story?
 - a. True friends can teach each other new things.
 - b. It's okay to lie to your friends as long as it doesn't hurt their feelings.
 - c. Don't listen to people who tease you.
 - d. True friends like you the way you are.

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Below are sentences from the story. Choose the best definition for each underlined vocabulary word.



1. The words pool party echoed through her mind.

- a. repeated
- b. sang
- c. yelled
- d. hurt

2. I could use your help inflating the floating basketball hoops and the ball.

- a. making
- b. placing on water
- c. throwing
- d. filling with air

3. Ava sc



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4. "Just b

- c. have good manners
- d. tell the truth

5. Ava's stomach lurched.

- a. relaxed or calmed
- b. moved or turned
- c. became cold
- d. felt hungry

6. We won't have to fight over who will be referee of the pool games.

- a. best player
- b. goalie
- c. person who makes rules
- d. judge for a sport

7. Ava nodded.

- a. moved her head back and forth
- b. moved her head up and down
- c. held still
- d. jumped for joy

ANSWER KEY

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1. What happened when Ava tried to learn how to swim? **b**
- a. She couldn't keep her head above water.
 - b. She got water up her nose and jumped out of the pool.**
 - c. Her friends made fun of her.
 - d. She splashed around and had to be rescued.

2. Why did Melanie want Ava to come to the party early?

She wanted help inflating the floating basketball hoop and the basketball.

3. Why did Ava go to the party? **a**



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4. Throughout the story, is Melanie being a good friend to Ava? Give two reasons to support your answer.

Melanie is being a good friend. She invites Ava to the party. Also, she when she learns that Ava can't swim, she doesn't make a big deal of it.

5. What lesson can be learned from this story? **d**
- a. True friends can teach each other new things.
 - b. It's okay to lie to your friends as long as it doesn't hurt their feelings.
 - c. Don't listen to people who tease you.
 - d. True friends like you the way you are.**

