



Beneath and Beyond

By Author David Stricklen
Class 1 – Chapter One



Author Secrets from Mr. Dave...

1. What is the difference between “fiction” and “nonfiction”? Have you ever written fiction? Where do your creative ideas come from?
2. Mr. Dave will share with you where the idea for this story began...

What is this Book About?

1. Who is the main character, Brian – and what is he like? Name at least two characteristics that are unique to Brian.
2. Who is Tommy? What is Tommy’s relationship to Brian? Name at least two characteristics that are unique to Tommy.



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3. Who is Joey? Is there a name for what Joey is saying and doing? Do you know anyone like this?
4. Why do you think that Joey behaves the way he does? What would you do, if someone behaved like this to you?
5. Where is the story happening?
6. When is the story happening? Is it in the past, present, or future? How do you know?

What's Happening in the Story?

1. Grandmother has a premonition that something bad is going to happen. When you read the story, did you feel like the boys should have listened to their grandmother's warning? Why or why not?
2. What do you think, when you hear that the boys let down an anchor 100 feet, and it didn't hit anything?
3. The police department had the same experience. Do you know the name of the kind of story that has an "impossible" or "supernatural" plot such as this? Look up the meaning of the word, "genre" and put it here!
4. What does "bottomless" mean? Is there such thing as a bottomless pond?
5. Whose voice do you think that Brian heard? Do you believe that Brian heard a real voice, or did Brian imagine it?



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6. What are “silent echoes”? Is there such a thing? If an echo is silent, how could the boy hear them? Would perhaps the sounds be coming from inside his mind? What do you think this means?

7. Brian had a lot of emotions in the first chapter. What are those emotions (name them)?

8. When Brian is “sucked down by a giant whirlpool” into the pond, it makes us think that the pond isn’t like a “normal” pond. Let’s guess at what’s happening. What do you think is going on with the pond? Remember, this is a story that is “supernatural” or “fantastical.”

“Ebil’s Rhymes and Sayings” (Ebil-ese)

1. In this story, we’ll be talking a little bit about rhyming. What is a rhyme pattern (have you ever heard of it before)? Do you know any rhyme patterns in poetry?

2. Do you know anything about riddles? What is a riddle?

What—or who—is “Ebil”? We’ll find out in Chapter Two!