

Jimmy the Dino Kid – Benjamin, Year 4, NSW

This is a story of a boy named Jimmy whose mum would say, ‘You can be anything when you grow up.’ Jimmy believed his mum, but took it one step too far....

Jimmy had two loves in this world: dinosaurs and swimming. Jimmy’s love of dinosaurs started when he watched Jurassic Park with his dad at the movies. Ever since that movie, Jimmy decided he would BE a dinosaur. Jimmy wore a dinosaur costume 24/7, however, once Jimmy started school, he soon realised that being a dinosaur was not that easy.

On Jimmy’s first day of kindergarten, he of course insisted on wearing a dinosaur costume. The gigantic pointy spikes on Jimmy’s back caused the children to run and hide every time Jimmy approached.

Jimmy went home and cried to his mum. He was confused why no one wanted to be his friend.

The next day things got even worse. Not only did Jimmy have no friends to sit with at recess now a big year 6 boy began tormenting him.

“Your outfit looks atrocious, and don’t you know dinosaurs are extinct?” he ridiculed.

“Well, I can choose to be whoever I want,” Jimmy replied with trepidation. But inside Jimmy had begun to wonder whether being a dinosaur was such a great idea. However, it was the announcement of the upcoming swimming carnival that really got Jimmy thinking twice....

“Are you ready for the swimming carnival Jimmy?” commanded mum.

“Yes mum,” Jimmy replied. Jimmy thudded down the stairs dressed in his dino costume as usual.

“Jimmy, I don’t think you will be able to compete in the swimming carnival dressed like that?” questioned mum.

Jimmy walked slowly back to his room while thinking about how he could still compete in the race. Out of the corner of his eye, Jimmy noticed his Mesosaurus costume he received for his last birthday.

“I’m ready mum!” announced Jimmy.

Jimmy rushed downstairs dressed in his shark outfit.

“Jimmy, that costume is going to be hard to swim in,” Mum said.

Jimmy began crying.

“You are the one who told me I can be whoever I want,” replied Jimmy.

Mum nodded. “Yes Jimmy, but you are a wonderful swimmer, and you have a good chance of winning a prize at the carnival.”

Jimmy thought about what mum said. As Jimmy set off to the pool wearing only his swimming costume, he felt nervous. No one at school had ever seen him without a dino costume.

As he approached the pool, he noticed other children smiling at him. When it was his turn to swim Jimmy thought about the mighty, powerful dinosaurs he loved and cherished. He remembered their fighting spirit and how fast they could move. As the whistle blew, Jimmy leapt off the starting block as fast as a Tyrannosaurus and swam as ferociously as a Mosasaurus.

Jimmy finished the race in first place. The children in the pool smiled at him and gave him a high-five. Jimmy didn’t put the dinosaur costume on ever again, but he would always ‘think’ like a dinosaur when he needed to!