

THE DIVING BOAT

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“We’re going to dive from a diving boat,” Nella had said. Skubba and Fred had not understood this. Fred wondered how a diving boat would work. How could you open the door without the boat filling with water? He would have to look it up. Skubba did not wonder about things like this. He was confident that Nella knew what she was doing. However strange it sounded. They were going diving, and that was the most important thing to him.

In high spirits, they collected their dive equipment and left to go to the marina. When they arrived, they tried to find the diving boat, but they couldn’t see more than a few ordinary boats. They thought, their boat must have still been waiting for them underwater.

“Hey, there’s Nella!” Fred yelled. And yes, there she was talking to a few instructors and other young divers.

“Good morning, Nella,” both friends said in unison.

“Good morning guys, bring your equipment with you and put it over there,” she replied.

“Is the submarine still underwater?” asked Skubba.

A smile appeared on Nella’s face and the other dive leaders.

“See that big boat over there? That’s our boat.”

“But you told us we were going on a diving boat?” Fred said. He was still trying to figure out how you could open the door of a submarine without it filling up with water.

“A diving boat? No, it is a dive boat. A boat to dive with, not a boat that dives,” she replied with a smile.

A little disappointed, our friends got their gear out of the car and brought it to the boat. Their disappointment was only short-lived. Although not an underwater boat, a ride on this one was still going to be a fun adventure for them.

When the captain gave the signal to leave, they helped to bring in the ropes (called lines) that tied the boat to the quay. The captain explained to Fred how he would find the dive site with his GPS, just like the one used in cars. He also showed him special maps with special directions for boats to take. Fred had always thought that boats could sail wherever they wanted, but that was not the case. There were also traffic rules at sea, and police too.

Nella gave all the young divers a guided tour so they would know where everything was on board. The funny thing was the toilet. To flush it, you had to pull a lever. You had to close the tap after

use because if you didn’t, the boat would fill with water.

Everyone had their dive gear neatly and safely stowed away. The boat was large, but with all those divers, the deck where you walked, could soon be full of obstacles and become a dangerous place if things aren’t put away properly.

The captain suddenly shouted that they had arrived to their dive site. He let the anchor drop and hoisted a white-blue flag. Nella explained that it was the dive flag to warn other boats around there are divers below.

Everyone began to calmly put their equipment on... ready to go diving!

