



# Mami Wata

The only reason why Thabang learned how to swim was to impress his crush Manuela. She liked sports but he was not very good at any. For swimming, he didn't need to run fast or be big. Yes, swimming was perfect.



Before that, Thabang had tried many things: wearing sunglasses indoors, making friends with the cool kids, being the funny guy and so much more, but Manuela still wouldn't notice him.

Swimming lessons were not going so well either. Thabang would not give up though.

In the meantime, Louw, Thabang's rival was the best at all sports imaginable, the leader of the cool kids and the funniest guy at school. And yes, he was good at swimming too.

One day, the school organised an afternoon at the beach. Only those who could swim were allowed near the ocean.

Louw, as always, was impressing everyone with his swimming skills. For Thabang, it was his time to shine.

“Don’t go too far!” said the teacher.

Clearly Thabang didn’t listen and found himself in the middle of a violent wave. He was knocked out.

When he opened his eyes, the first thing he saw was a girl with long hair. “My name is Mami Wata and I am a mermaid. You have been asleep for a little while,” She said.

“What am I doing here?” asked Thabang





**“You must have been knocked out by a wave and the current brought you here to my island.” she replied**

**Thabang told her everything he remembered before arriving on Mami Wata’s island. He told her about Manuela and his strategy to attract her attention.**

**“Well, I will teach you how to swim properly. That’s the least I can do for you,” said Mami Wata.**

**They spent hours and hours in and out of water with little success.**

**“I think I know what your problem is,” said Mami Wata.**

**“What is it?” asked Thabang**

**“You are trying too hard to impress that girl, that’s why you can’t float. Let go and be yourself! Let’s try again!” she said.**

**Thabang got into the water and Mami Wata said: “remember, close your eyes, let go and be yourself.”**

**He followed her advice and finally could float. A few hours of practice later, Thabang was an excellent swimmer.**

**“Thank you Mami Wata. I will follow your advice.”**

He said goodbye to Mami Wata and swam back to the beach.

Although the teacher and the other pupils had been looking for him, they were all astonished by his new swimming skills.

Thabang proudly got out of water and approached Manuela for the first time.

“Hello, my name is Thabang. I like video games and chocolate. Would you like to have some ice cream with me?” he asked.



**“Yes, I would love to,” she replied.**

**Trying to be somebody else will never help you make friends. Be yourself, at least you know they will like you for who you are.**



**THE END**



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