

All sorts of great things happened whilst they were at school. There would be the writing and the reading, and the maths and the science and the art and the clubs (lots of clubs), but when asked to do any of them the conversation went like this:
"We are going to do some great numeracy today," said the teacher with enthusiasm.

Lola's hand went up.

"Yes, Lola?"

"I can't!"

Bob's hand went up.

"Yes, Bob?" would say the teacher (who knew what was coming next).

"I won't!"

It came to the summer term and the school pool was finally open for swimmers!

The pupils were pretty excited, and since the weather was hot, looking forward to a cooling dip.

Neither Bob nor Lola could swim; they had been asked a number of times, encouraged to take part, ordered to have a go even, but the answer (with arms crossed and grumpy faces) was always: "Can't!" "Won't!"

Mum and Dad by now were quite worried about the twins, especially with swimming. They had bought Bob and Lola a super swimming costume each, with towels of their favourite cartoon character each, and snazzy swimming goggles. Maybe, just maybe, they would try swimming? But no, it wasn't going to happen.

So, the pool opened for the first time that summer of Year 3. Bob and Lola trudged to school on a hot morning with new swimming costumes, cartoon character towels, and snazzy swimming goggles.

The time came for the lesson.

"It's time to get changed," said the teacher.

You can guess what happened.

Lola said, "I can't swim."

Bob said, "I won't swim."

"We're not going in the water because we can't swim and we won't swim, so there!"

The first week they missed out on swimming. In fact, they missed swimming for the whole year. No-one could get them in the water, not the teacher, not their parents, not even the fierce headteacher. They couldn't even get them near to the pool. And every week Bob and Lola sat in the hot, stuffy classroom hearing the squeals of delight

from their classmates, the sound of splashing, and saw the fresh faces when their friends returned from the lesson.

Come the Autumn term of Year 4, and the big visit everyone looked forward to – a day out at the castle! If there was one thing at school more special than the swimming and all other visits, it was the year 4 visit to the castle, a spectacular building full of history, battlements, moats, towers and the most massive portcullis.

Everyone got ready on the morning of the Year 4 visit – coats on, lunches packed, notepads collected, pencils sharpened, cameras charged up.

"We're going to learn lots about the castle, and we're also going to do sketching and drawing," said the teacher.

"I can't do drawing," said Lola.

"I won't do drawing," said Bob.

"We can't do drawing, and we won't do drawing, so we won't be going," Bob and Lola announced to the class.

No matter what anyone said, the answer was the same (but you knew that, didn't you?).

"Can't go!"

"Won't go!"

And that was that.

The class returned at the end of the day, brimming with stories of turrets and swordfights, knights and battlements, dungeons and executions.

And, for the first time, Bob and Lola started thinking, "We didn't see any of that ...? Because ... I can't do it and I won't do it."

Was this how it was always going to be?

When they were 10, Mum and Dad splashed out on an extra-special family holiday – to Spain! By the sea!

Lola immediately declared there was a problem: "I can't go to the sea, because I can't swim so I can't go there."

And sure enough Bob declared: "I won't go to the sea, because I won't swim, so I won't go there."

Mum and Dad agreed Bob and Lola didn't need to go to the sea because there was plenty more to see and do.