

“Who Understands Swimming, But me?”

By: Jenna Watson

You have to have patience in swimming,
in order to endure the feeling of winning.

You must throw your heart into this full time job.(M)

you definitely get the effect of feeling robbed.

(5) You experience a loss in time to spend with friends,
your body always feels as though it's on the mend.

You feel as if the workouts are written by Hades,
it's often easier to drive away in your shiny Mercedes.

Your legs always feel like they're being ran over.(S)

(10) and your shoulders feel like they'll never recover.

Your drive to improve will sometimes shatter,
but you must always persevere or else you'll splatter.

The process destroys you,
but the effects enhance you.

(15) Your work ethic and drive continue to improve,
and you will always have people to put in their place and prove.

You surely know now that swimming is hard,
now how about you hear it from my own backyard.

Beep beep it's the beginning of the week.

(20) Better get up and stretch so I don't tear an oblique.

Brush my teeth and put on my swimsuit.

I need to prepare for this treacherous practice during this 15 minute commute.

Enter the pool and look at the clock.

Dang what's with all of this talk?

(25) I'm in the National group?

Please, give me a second to calm down and regroup!

Are you sure coach? Do I have what it takes?

Oh how it was worth all the backaches and mistakes!

I remember racing towards the wall, like a dog chasing a treat. (S)

(30) I'm a horse released from its stall, racing against earth shattering defeat.(M)

Heart racing, fast breathing, red cheeks.

Ready to use this horrific training I've been doing for weeks.

The water splashing in and out of his ears,
drowning out all of everyone's claps and loud cheers.

(35) I've been working hard, and putting in long weight-bearing ours.

Building and improving myself and my swimming powers.

Growing my confidence and making me disciplined.

Helping me to follow a routine that keeps me interested.

Key:

Figurative language

S: simile and M: metaphor

Repetition:

-You (all of stanza one)

-The idea that swimming is challenging (lines 3-13,17,20,22,29,32,35)

Paralelism:

-Rhyming, which leads to the big reveal that I like repetition.

-Punctuation, which shows how I think in shorter thoughts as compared to long paragraphs. It also shows how when telling something you need more information versus when showing someone something.

-The shift of telling to showing. I used this in order to tell first why swimming is hard and challenging, and then to show the effects and benefits I personally experienced.