

The Big Wave

Mark lived in the suburbs of Chicago. In the summertime, his family took trips to the beach, where he played in the waves. Sometimes he would ride a wave to the shore of the lake. He always looked forward to riding the waves, the bigger the better.

One summer, Mark went to visit his cousin in California. There, he was introduced to the Pacific Ocean. This was the first time Mark experienced anything besides the enormous lake in Chicago. He mistakenly believed that the lake and the ocean were the same in terms of power. When Mark's aunt told him to be careful, he laughed and assured her that he was an excellent swimmer. She cautioned him that the ocean was rough and perilous, but Mark just shrugged. He knew how to surf, didn't he?

Mark heard the gigantic wave before he saw it. He turned around and opened his mouth in horror. The wave was mammoth, and it was thundering directly toward him. Mark took a deep breath and cringed beneath the water. The wave crashed over him and carried him high onto shore. Mark gained a new respect for the ocean after that.

1. Why didn't Mark listen to his aunt?
2. What lesson did Mark learn about the ocean?