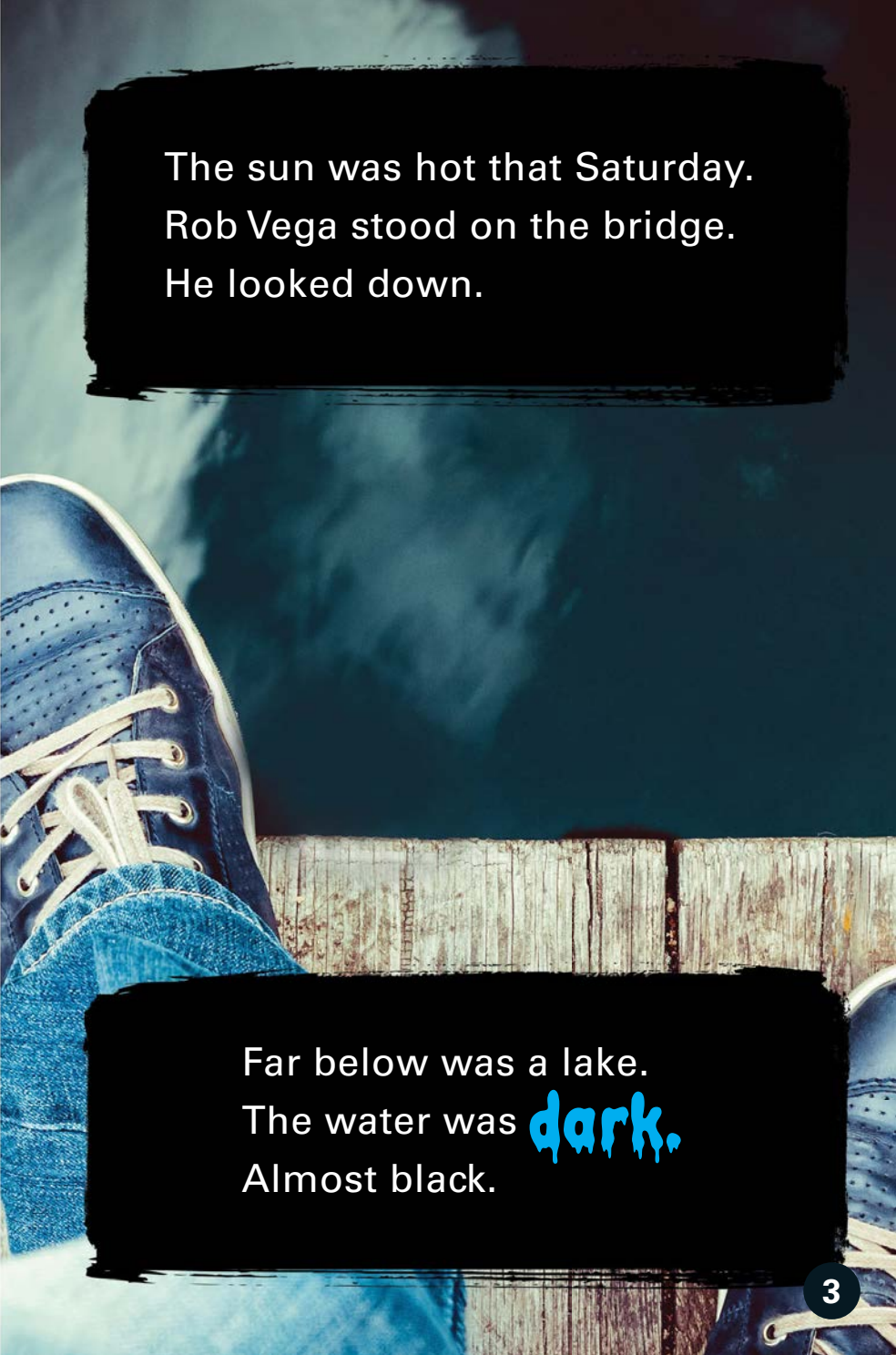


ENGAGE [2] Engineering

# DROP



by PJ Gray



The sun was hot that Saturday.  
Rob Vega stood on the bridge.  
He looked down.

Far below was a lake.  
The water was **dark.**  
Almost black.

Emma and Bret stood by Rob.  
They were his friends.  
His dad was there too.





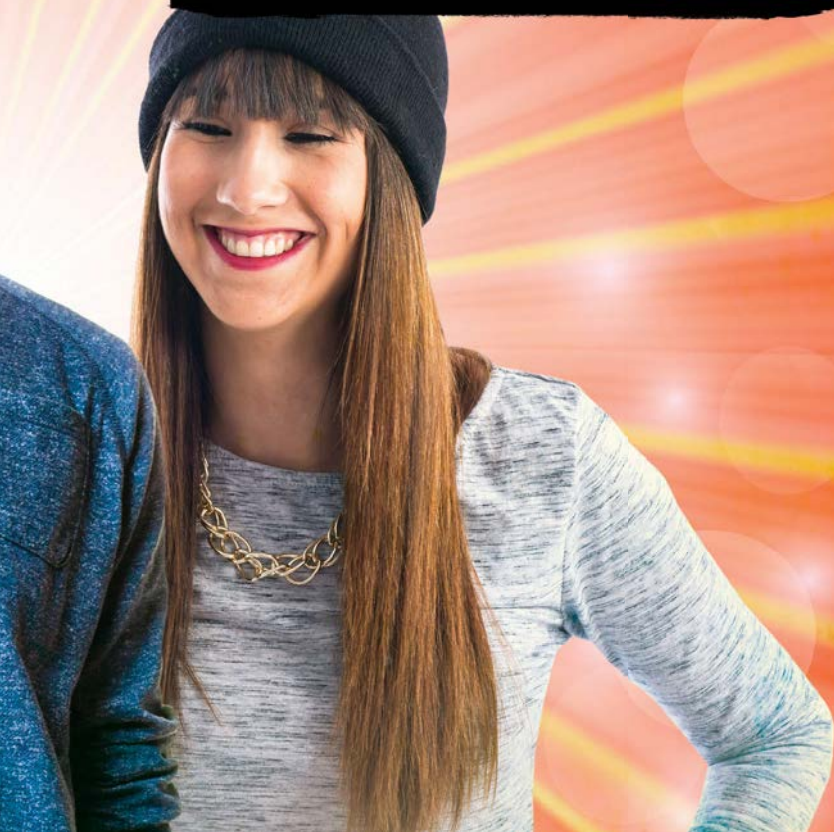
# "Happy Birthday!"

Emma said to Rob.

"You are seventeen," Bret said.

"How does it feel?"

"It feels good," Rob said.






"Well," said Mr. Vega. "Are you  
going to **jump?**"

Rob did not speak.



A young man with dark hair and glasses is smiling broadly, looking slightly to the side. He is adjusting his glasses with his right hand. He is wearing a blue textured sweater. The background is a bright blue sky with green tree branches at the top. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

"It's your birthday," his dad said.  
"This is what you wanted."  
"I know."



Rob had asked about

**bungee jumping.**

He wanted to try it.

His dad knew about this park.

People said it was the best.

Jumping was fun and safe.



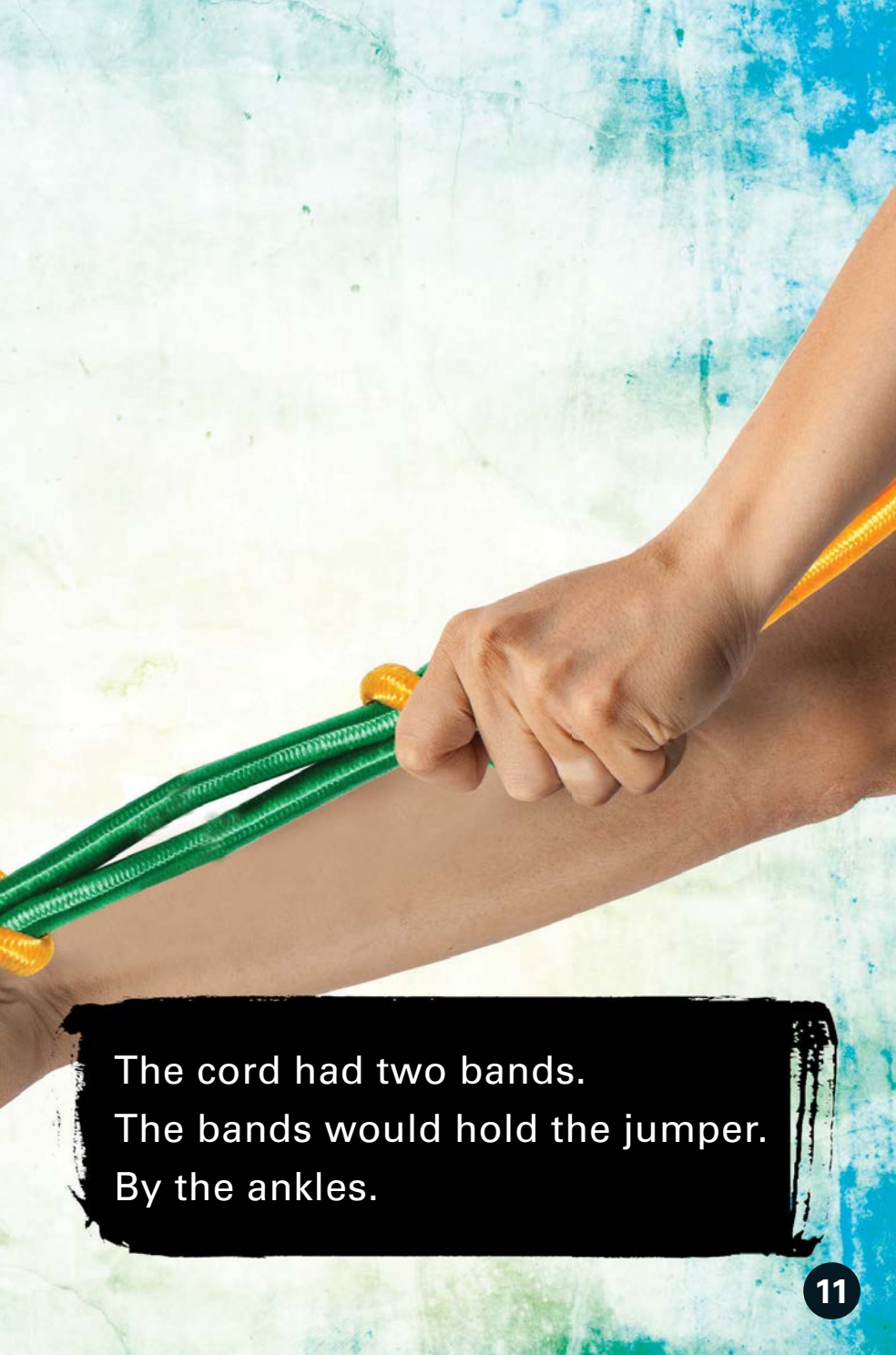
"Come on, Rob," Emma said.  
"If you won't jump, I will."

"No!" Rob said. "I want to do  
this. I will go first."



Two park workers came over.  
They talked about how to  
jump **safely.**  
One worker showed them the  
bungee cord. It was a strong  
rope. One end was hooked to  
the bridge.





The cord had two bands.  
The bands would hold the jumper.  
By the ankles.

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