

## Sweet Tea and A PFD Seamoor Script

Created by: Rend Lake, St. Louis District

**Ranger:** Good morning. My name is Ranger \_\_\_\_\_. I'm a park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Rend Lake. Thank you for inviting me to your school. And I would like to invite you to visit me at Rend Lake. How many of you have been to Rend Lake? Well we have lots of fun things to do at the lake: swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking trails, playgrounds, and campgrounds. Helping people stay safe at Rend Lake is a big part of my job. Especially staying safe around the water. I brought a helper with me today from the lake. We want to talk a little about water safety. I'll bring my friend out now. Hey Uncle Si-moor. Come out and meet these kids.

**Seamoor:** Hi everybody. Hey it feels fine to be here.

**Ranger:** You're certainly looking good. I understand you just got back from a family reunion in Louisiana. How did that go?

**Seamoor:** Oh it was a fine trip. When you're in Louisiana sippin on a glass of sweet tea and the sun is shining hey you know it's not gonna be a bad day.

**Ranger:** Was your family all well?

**Seamoor:** Everybody was good except my brother Billy.

**Ranger:** What's wrong with Billy?

**Seamoor:** Hey he had a little diving accident at the redneck water park.

**Ranger:** You showed me pictures of that redneck water park. The water looked pretty muddy and that rope swing tied onto that tree hanging over the water looked dangerous.

**Seamoor:** That's where he got hurt. Swung on that rope, let go and dove head first into the water like a duck pouncing on a june bug.

**Ranger:** Wow. That can cause a serious head neck or back injury. With muddy water like that you can't see if you are diving onto something that will injure you. What did Billy land on?

**Seamoor:** He hit a stump head first. He saw stars for a while, then he was OK.

**Ranger:** I hope he at least learned a lesson to never dive head first. The only place you can safely do that is at a swimming pool where the water is clear enough to see what's below you.

**Seamoor:** Hey it's a good thing there were some adults there watchin Billy. They ran down there like their tennis shoes were on fire and caught him up out of the water. Those tennis shoes sure did get hot.

**Ranger:** If Billy had been alone with no one to help that could have been real bad. You should never swim alone Uncle Si-moor. If you start to struggle in the water there is no one there to help you. Swimming with an adult is the safest. Adults usually know what to do in case of emergency. It's not only unsafe to swim alone it's also not that much fun.

**Seamoor:** That's it Jack.

**Ranger:** I think it's important to know how to recognize when someone needs help in the water.

**Seamoor:** Hey I would just yell for help.

**Ranger:** That doesn't work Uncle Si-moor.

**Seamoor:** Hey you gotta be more specific.

**Ranger:** In what we call an emergency or a drowning situation a person can't speak or yell because they are choking on the water. A drowning person is usually silent, they have their head tilted back trying to get air. Sometimes it looks like they are just playing but really they need help right away.

**Seamoor:** I saw Billy act that way. His head come up, then hey he was gone.

**Ranger:** How would you help a drowning victim Uncle Si-moor?

**Seamoor:** Hey take the initiative, go on the offense.

**Ranger:** Be careful about that Uncle Si-moor. You shouldn't get near enough to a drowning person that they can grab ahold of you. They can pull your head under, you can get a mouthful of water, then you will be drowning too. We have a saying you should remember to help a drowning person.

**Seamoor:** Let er rip.

**Do demo of how a drowning victim looks.**

**Ranger:** We say reach, throw, row, and go for help. Go is the most important thing to remember. Get an adult to help or call 911. Go get help. Don't try to be a hero and do this alone. You can also reach toward the person with something they can grab onto and then pull them to safety.

**Seamoor:** Hey could I reach out with a snake?

**Ranger:** Are you serious Uncle Si-moor?

**Seamoor:** I say find me a good snake and I'll find a hundred good uses for him.

**Ranger:** I'm thinking more about some of these things we brought. Let's demonstrate.

**Seamoor:** Let er rip.

**Ranger:** If you can't reach the drowning person maybe you can throw something that will help them keep their head above the water.

**Seamoor:** Is it time for the snake yet?

**Ranger:** No Uncle Si-moor. I'm talking about something that floats. Let's demonstrate.

**Do Reach, Throw, Row and Go for Help demo**

**Seamoor:** Hey now we're cooking with peanut oil.

**Ranger:** That was good. Let's talk about a piece of equipment you should always wear around the water. It will keep you afloat and keep your head above the water.

**Do PFD demo**

**Seamoor:** That's what I'm talking about Jack.

**Ranger:** Getting any good ideas Uncle Si-moor?

**Seamoor:** From now on I never leave home without three things : a glass of tea, a PFD, and a buddy to swim with.

**Ranger:** By the way Uncle Si-moor. Do you know how to swim?

**Seamoor:** I'm the complete definition of the word swim.

**Ranger:** I thought so. You can never truly be safe until you know how to swim. I'm glad you learned Uncle Si-moor. How many of you know how to swim? Think about taking lessons. Thanks for all your help Uncle Si-moor.

**Seamoor:** Hey when you're on you're on. And today I'm on.

**Ranger:** Thanks for sharing your experience with Billy and his accident.

**Seamoor:** You know me ranger. All of my stories are 95% truthful.

**Ranger:** I appreciate that Uncle Si-moor. Kids come and visit us at Rend Lake. Bye now.

Give away items: cups

The cups talk about "Where is \_\_\_\_\_" Maybe put a section in script about making sure that your parents or adult know where you are at all times.