

Karen loved to swim. She liked the way the water felt against her skin. When she kicked her legs, she could feel the water pushing against her. Her dad told her that pushing was what helped her swim so fast. Karen was a very fast swimmer. In the summer, Karen would swim in a lake near her house. It was a very deep lake, and the water was always cold. Karen was only allowed to swim in the lake when adults were also there. Her parents told her it was too dangerous for children to swim in the lake by themselves. Karen knew she was a good swimmer, but she also knew her parents were right. She never swam in the lake by herself.

In the winter, Karen swam at the community center in her town. It was an indoor pool, so it was open all year. Her father would take her there on Tuesdays after work. Her mother usually took her there on Thursdays and Fridays. Karen liked to swim at the indoor pool. The water was always warm. There were almost always a lot of people there at the pool. She liked the way people's voices sounded when she was deep in the water. Sometimes, Karen swam in races. Swimming races were called swim meets. The community center in town held swim meets every month. Karen loved those days. She liked to race against other children. Karen won a lot of her races because she swam so often. She was a very strong swimmer.