

# Tom Daley

**Name:**

Tom Daley

**Born:**

21 May 1994 in Plymouth, England.

**Childhood**

Tom grew up in Plymouth with his dad, his mum, and his two younger brothers, William and Ben. He was a very active boy and when he was very young, he was very competitive at judo and had started to win medals in the sport. He loved the adrenaline of sports that required sharp precision, focus and a physical challenge, so when he first spotted the diving boards at his local pool, he couldn't wait to try it himself. He started diving and really enjoyed it, but he was also still very keen on judo. At one point, he had to decide which sport he wished to carry on with as the training times clashed. He was also very good at both, but to become great, he had to choose one to focus on; thankfully he chose diving. Soon after, Tom was spotted by a coach when he was taking part in regular diving lessons, and was placed in a competitive squad in September 2002. By June 2004, the month after his tenth birthday, he had won the platform competition in the National Junior Championships, which made him the youngest ever winner of that event.

**Achievements**

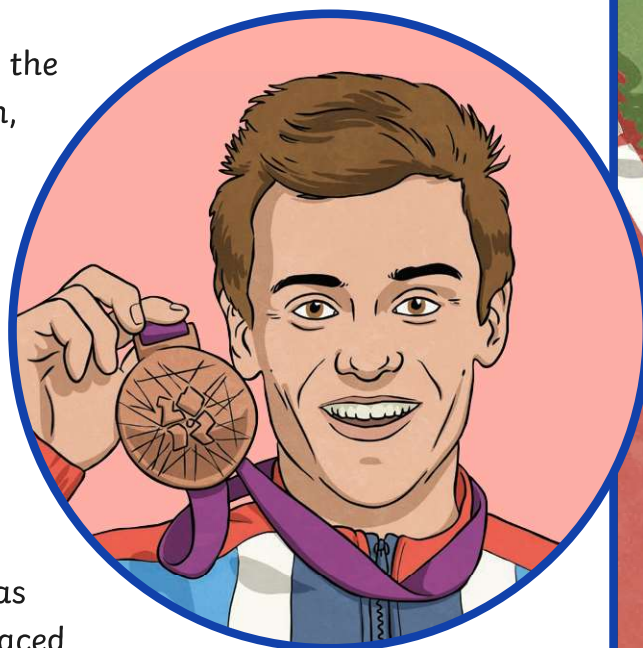
Amazingly, aged only 14, Tom qualified for the Beijing 2008 Olympics, in the individual 10-metre dive competition and the 10-metre platform synchronised competition. This made him one of the youngest-ever Olympic competitors. In the

**Olympic Games and Medals****2012 London Games:**

1 bronze medal- 10-metre Platform Diving

**2016 Rio Games:**

1 bronze medal - 10-metre Synchronised Platform Diving



Olympic synchronised 10-metre platform competition (an event where two divers perform the same dive at exactly the same time as part of a team), he finished in 8th place while in the individual 10-metre platform competition, Tom finished 7th. Quite an achievement for someone so young! After four tough years, in which Tom sadly lost his father when he died from a brain tumour, he entered the 2012 London Olympic Games as one of Team GB's most recognisable names. His first days of competition though did not go to plan as after a couple of poor dives, Tom and his diving partner, Peter Waterfield, ended the synchronised competition in fourth place. Four days later, the final round of the individual 10-metre platform dive began in dramatic fashion when Tom claimed that he was distracted by the sudden eruption of camera flashes while he was diving, which made him make a mistake. After protesting to the referee, he was allowed to retake the dive and got a much better score. Eventually, after two more dives, Tom won the bronze medal, which he emotionally dedicated to his father after his medal ceremony.

### **Life after the Olympics**

Tom's Olympic career is definitely not over yet, as he has recently been picked to lead out Team GB's diving team for this year's summer Olympic Games in Rio. Hoping to win his second Olympic medal, he will again take part in the 10m synchronised and 10m individual platform diving events. Tom also has a busy life outside of diving and recently had a role in his own celebrity diving reality TV show called Splash. He also has an active role as a celebrity ambassador for the children's charity, Childline, which is a counselling service for children and young people, who Tom says helped him through a bullying ordeal when he was younger.

### **Amazing Fact!**

**Despite training almost every day during his teens, Tom still managed to keep up his studies at school. He managed to achieve one A and eight A\* grades in his GCSEs, and three A grade A-Levels.**

# Tom Daley Questions

Answer the following questions using full sentences that give as much detail as possible.

1. What tough decision did Tom have to make at a young age?

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2. What did Tom do just after his tenth birthday?

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3. What adverb does the author use to show the surprise people felt at Tom being picked for Team GB in 2008 at just 14 years of age?

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4. Describe how you think Tom may have felt going into the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

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5. What does synchronised diving mean?

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6. Why do you think there was a sudden eruption of camera flashes during Tom's first dive in the 10-metre platform event at the London 2012 Olympics

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7. Why was Tom's medal ceremony at the 2012 London Games an emotional event?

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8. Why do you think Tom supports the charity Childline?

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# Tom Daley Questions

9. Why were Tom's GCSE and A-Level results especially impressive?

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10. Do you think that Tom is a good role model for other children and young people? Why?

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# Tom Daley Answers

1. What tough decision did Tom have to make at a young age?

**He had to decide whether to concentrate on Judo or diving; two sports that he enjoyed and excelled at. The training times clashed and to become great so he had to choose one to focus on. Thankfully, he chose diving.**

2. What did Tom do just after his tenth birthday?

**Tom won the platform competition in the National Junior Diving Championships, which made him the youngest ever winner of that event.**

3. What adverb does the author use to show the surprise people felt at Tom being picked for Team GB in 2008 at just 14 years of age?

**Amazingly.**

4. Describe how you think Tom may have felt going into the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: intimidated – as he was one of the youngest people there at the Olympic Games; determined – to do his best after trying for so many years; excited – that he'd made it to the Games at such a young age.**

5. What does synchronised diving mean?

**Synchronised diving is where two divers perform the same dive at exactly the same time as part of a team.**

6. Why do you think there was a **sudden eruption of camera flashes** during Tom's first dive in the 10m platform event at the London 2012 Olympics?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The sudden eruption of camera flashes was due to Tom's popularity or Tom diving in his own country's Olympic Games.**

7. Why was Tom's medal ceremony at the 2012 London Games an emotional event?

**The medal ceremony was an emotional event because he dedicated his medal to his father who tragically died of a brain tumour on the run-up to the Olympic Games.**

8. Why do you think Tom supports the charity Childline?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Tom feels a need to pay something back to them for helping him through the trauma of bullying as a youngster.**

9. Why were Tom's GCSE and A-Level results especially impressive?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Tom stuck to his studies whilst training intensively and competing in diving competitions all over the world.**

10. Do you think that Tom is a good role model for other children and young people? Why?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Tom is a good role model for other children and young people because he managed to balance his academic studies with his passion for sport.**