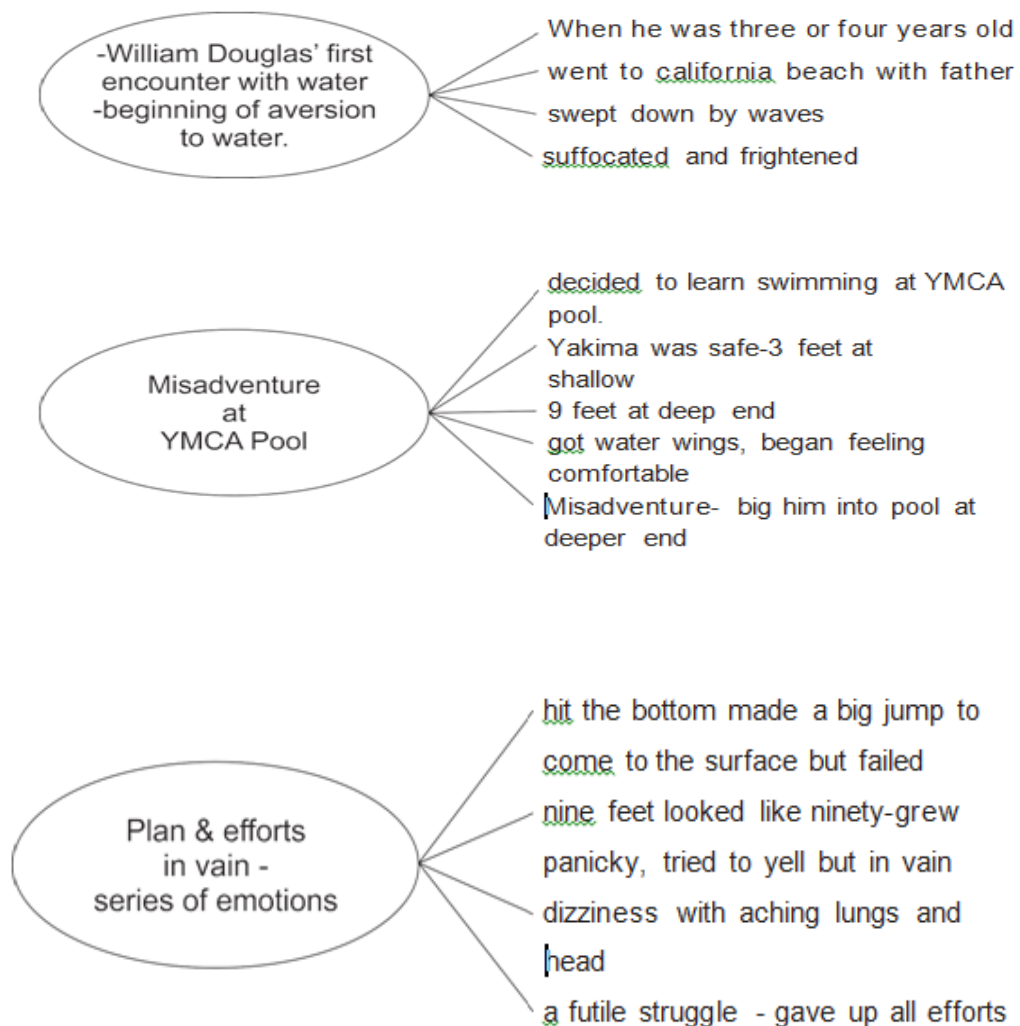


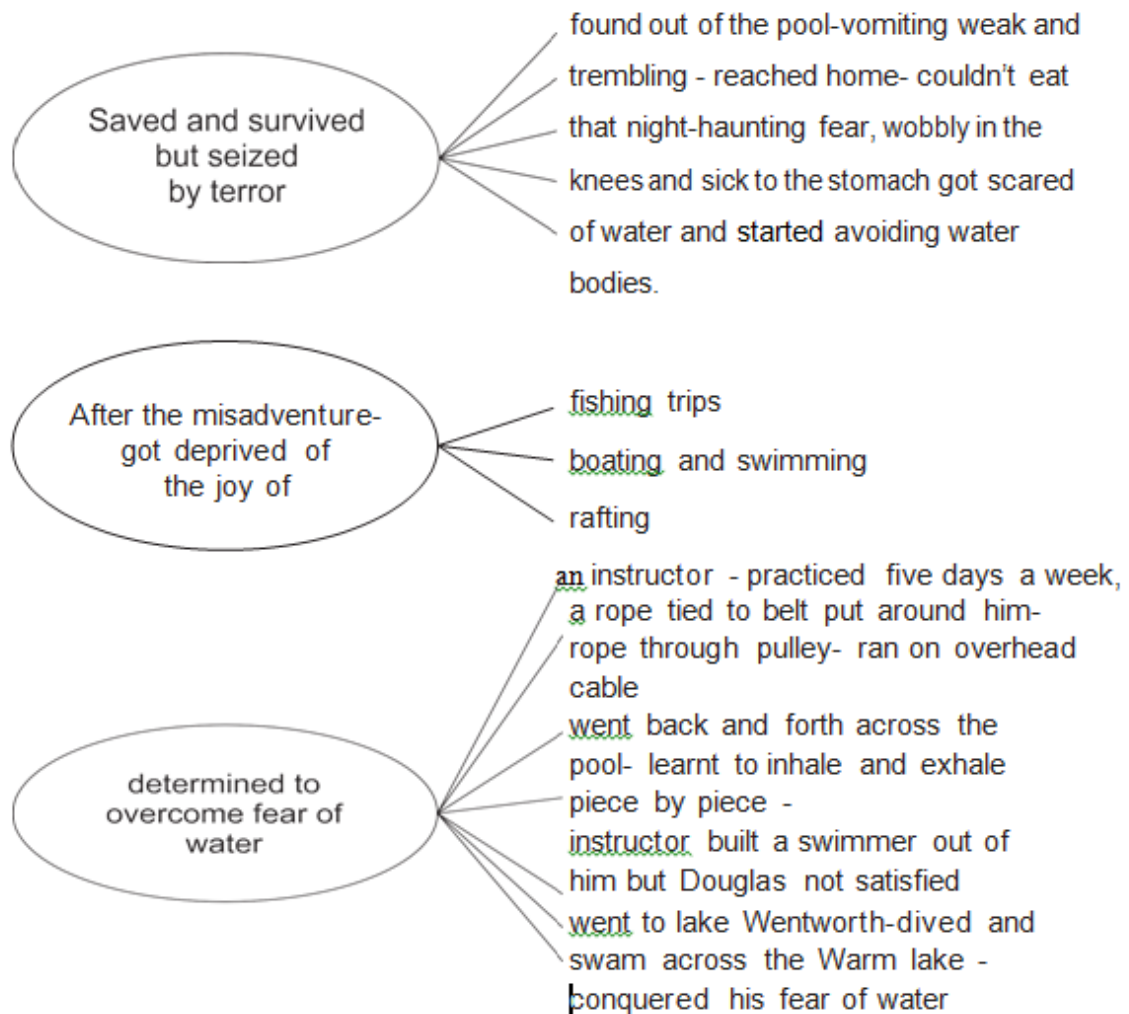
### 3.DEEP WATER

#### -William Douglas

Deep water opens the way for all to achieve the impossible. Focusing the target, staying determined and consistent efforts can help to fight the challenges and tough situations of life. Challenge in life are inevitable but we need to accept them and make our course/run clear so these do not become hindrance for our lives.

#### Lesson at a Glance





## EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

1. "From the beginning, however, I had an aversion to the water when I was in it."

- Who is 'I' in the above lines?
- When did he start experiencing an aversion to water?
- Why was he frightened?
- How, according to you, did the boy feel when his father laughed at him?

2. "But when my feet hit the bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great swing upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork."

- Which incident is the poet referring to in the above lines?
- How deep was the pool?
- Why do you think the author feels that he would spring to the surface like a cork?
- Name the literary device used in the above lines.

3. "I tried to bring my legs up, but they hung as dead weights, paralysed and rigid. A great force was pulling me under."

- a. Who is 'I' in the above lines?
- b. Where was the author when this incident took place?
- c. How do you think the author can be saved from this situation?
- d. Name the literary device used in the above lines.

4. "I struck at the water as I went down, expending my strength as one in a nightmare fights an irresistible force."

- a. Explain the phrase 'expending my strength'.
- b. Who does a person fight with in a nightmare?
- c. Why do you think a person fights with an irresistible force in a nightmare?
- d. Name the chapter and the author.

5. "Thus, piece by piece, he built a swimmer."

- a. Who is referred to as 'he' in the above lines?
- b. Who is 'the swimmer' in the above lines?
- c. Why did the swimmer want to learn to swim?
- d. Why is it advisable to work 'piece by piece'?

6. "I crossed to oblivion and the curtain of life fell."

- a. Who is 'I' in the above lines?
- b. Why did 'I' get into a state of oblivion?
- c. Use the phrase 'curtain of life fell' in a sentence of your own.
- d. Which genre does the story 'Deep Water' belong to?

7. "This handicap stayed with me as the years rolled by."

- a. Which handicap is being referred to in the above lines?
- b. How did he overcome his handicap?
- c. What did his handicap prevent him from doing?
- d. How, according to you, can one overcome a handicap in their life?

8. "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished."

- a. Who is 'the instructor' being referred to in the above lines?
- b. What did the instructor finish doing?
- c. Why did 'I' feel that he had not finished?
- d. When do you feel that a job is completely finished?

9. "At last I felt released- free to walk the trails and climb the peaks to brush aside fear."

- a. When did the author feel 'released'?

b. Use the phrase 'brush aside fear' in a sentence of your own.

c. What was the author released of?

d. Name the chapter and the author.

10. "I had conquered my fear of water."

a. When did Douglas finally realize that he had conquered his fear?

b. How did he conquer his fear of water?

c. Why did he develop a fear of water?

d. How according to you, should one conquer the fears in one's life?

**SHORT ANS. TYPE QUESTIONS-SOLVED 30-40 WORDS.**

1. Why did Douglas decide to learn swimming in the YMCA pool?

Ans. The Y.M.C.A. Pool was safe. It was only two to three feet deep at the shallow end and nine feet deep at the other. Moreover, the drop was gradual. So he decided to learn swimming in the Y.M.C.A. pool.

Q 2. 'I had an aversion to the water when I was in it', says Douglas. Why did he have an aversion to the water?

Ans. At the age of three or four years Douglas Had visited the beach in California along with his father. he had held his father tightly, even then the waves knocked him down and swept over him. He was buried in water and was breathless. He was terrified and since then had an aversion to the water.

Q 3. What was the misadventure that happened with Douglas?

Ans. Douglas reached the pool early one day and was waiting for the others. A big, stout boy came there and tossed Douglas in the water and he began to drown.

Q 4. What made Douglas feel under water, that he was alive?

Ans. Douglas felt paralysed under water, even the screams in his throat were frozen. Only his heart and the pounding in head made him realise that he was still alive.

Q 5. What valuable lesson did Douglas learn from his terrifying experience in the pool water?

Ans. Douglas learnt that there is terror only in one thing that is fear of Death. All we have to fear is fear itself. Will to live is greater Than fear of Death.

### **SHORT ANS. TYPE QUESTIONS-UNSOLVED 30-40 WORDS.**

- Q 1. What does Douglas mean to say by the words 'piece by piece, he built a swimmer'?
- Q 2. What did Douglas do to conquer the residual doubts about his fear of water?
- Q 3. The instructor was finished. But I was not finished? What does this refer to? Explain briefly.
- Q 4. Describe the series of emotions that Douglas experienced while engulfed in the mass of yellow water.
- Q 5. How did Douglas feel when all efforts ceased?

### **LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (ABOUT 125 WORDS)**

- Q 1. Describe how the instructor made a swimmer of William Douglas?

Ans. The fear of water had become a handicap to Douglas. In order to overcome this fear of water he engaged a trainer to learn swimming. For the first five days he made him go across the pool an hour a day with the help of a rope attached to his belt. The trainer held on to the other end of the rope. Then he taught him to exhale under water and inhale through raised nose. he made him kick his legs to make them relax. Then he asked him to swim. Finally he could command his legs. Thus piece by piece he made a swimmer of William Douglas.

- Q 2. How did Douglas conquer the fear of water?

- (i) Douglas faced misadventure, terror set in.
- (ii) Tried to overcome fear.
- (iii) Engaged an instructor.
- (iv) Initially took help of ropes water wings, later left them.
- (v) Went fishing canoeing etc.
- (vi) Frowned at terror, everytime it came.
- (vii) Went all alone to Conrad Meadow.
- (viii) Swam in Warm lakeshore and back.

Q 3. When did Douglas start fearing water?

- (i) The water waves knocked down young Douglas and swept over him at Californian beach.
- (ii) Douglas filled with fear –age- three or four years.
- (iii) Clung to his father, breath was gone, father laughed.
- (iv) Douglas terrified at the overpowering force of water.
- (v) His introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool.
- (vi) Misadventure at the pool.
- (vii) Thrown at the nine feet deep end of the pool by big boy.
- (viii) His efforts to rise to the surface failed.
- (ix) Rescued in time.
- (x) This experience further strengthened the hold of fear on his mind.