

DEEP WATER

SUMMARY: William Douglas started fearing water since the age of four. It started when he was visiting California with his father. He visited a beach where a wave knocked him down and swept over him. This terrified him, although the father laughed at this knowing it was no danger. However, this experience terrified him and developed a fear of water in him. After that, when the author is 11 years old, he experiences another incident which further escalates his fear. He is at a swimming pool in Yakima, trying to learn swimming. On one fine day, a bully decides to pull a dangerous prank on him. He pushes him into the deep end of the pool which frightens the author. He dives nine feet into the water and starts struggling desperately to hold on to something. Moreover, he yells for help but starts feeling paralyzed and he gives up and readies himself to die but wakes up at the side of the pool. However, the terror he experiences while drowning never goes away. It continues to haunt him for many years and even spoils his future expeditions concerning canoeing, swimming, fishing and more.

He even visits Marine Lakes, Columbia, New Hampshire and more but is not able to enjoy it. Thus, he decides to overcome this fear by hook or by crook. He enrolls himself in a swimming class and tries to learn from the instructor. The instructor teaches him many tips and tricks for swimming. He begins with the inhaling and exhaling part then he practices it for many weeks. Further, he moves on to kicking the legs on the side of the pool. Finally, he combines all this with the final move of swimming. Although the author knows how to swim, he is still terrified of water. Thus, in order to get rid of the fear, he decides to confront it. He mocks it by thinking what can it really do? Consequently, he plunges in to the water and to his surprise, his fear goes away. He has faced it in many places and at last, manages to conquer it.

To sum up, we learn that if we are determined enough and have the courage, we can overcome any fear that comes our way without letting the fear overpower us.

MCOs

A. *My breath was gone. I was frightened. Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart at the overpowering force of the waves. My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days and was just beginning to feel at ease in the water when the misadventure happened.*

1. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below

Statement 1: The author's father laughed to mock his son's inability to swim.

Statement 2: The author wanted to swim just to prove to his father that he can swim.

- A) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
- B) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
- C) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.
- D) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.

Ans. C) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

2. "My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears." It can be inferred that this was a clear case of

- A) suppression
- B) oppression
- C) depression
- D) repression

Ans. D) repression

3. The misadventure that took place right after the author felt comfortable was that

- A) the author slipped and fell into the swimming pool.
- B) a bully tossed him into the pool for the sake of fun.
- C) his coach forgot to teach him how to handle deep water.
- D) his father couldn't help him from drowning into

the water Ans. B) a bully tossed him into the pool

for the sake of fun.

B. It was only two or three feet deep at the shallow end; and while it was nine feet deep at the other, the drop was gradual. I got a pair of water wings and went to the pool. I hated to walk naked into it and show my skinny legs. But I subdued my pride and did it.

4. The author subdued his pride and did it. This shows that he –

- A. Hated swimming
- B. Loved swimming
- C. did not want to swim
- D. Was forced to swim

Ans. B Loved swimming

5. What are water wings?

- A. A pair of wings to fly over the water
- B. A pair of life saving tube to swim in water
- C. both a and b
- D. None of these

Ans. B. A pair of life saving tube to swim in water

6. He got water wings before going to the pool. This

shows that he – A Was brave

B. Was courageous

C. was rich

D. Was scared

Ans. D. Was scared

7. State true or False –

The writer could drown at the shallow end of

the pool. Ans. False

8. Find a synonym of

overpower. Ans.

Subdue.

C. Then all effort ceased. I relaxed. Even my legs felt limp; and a blackness swept over my brain. It wiped out fear; it wiped out terror. There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful. Nothing to be afraid of. This is nice... to be drowsy... to go to sleep... no need to jump... too tired to jump... it's nice to be carried gently... to float along in space... tender arms around me... tender arms like Mother's... now I must go to sleep... I crossed to oblivion, and the curtain of life fell.

9. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: The author tried his best to jump out of water.

Statement 2: After a while, the author was not anxious in water.

A) If Statement 1 is the cause, Statement 2 is the effect.

B) If Statement 1 is the effect, Statement 2 is the cause.

C) Both the statements are the effects of a common cause.

D) Both the statements are the effects of independent causes.

Ans. A) If Statement 1 is the cause, Statement 2 is the effect.

10. The 'curtain (of life) fell' corresponds to an aspect of

- A) Geometry.
- B) History.
- C) Sports.
- D) Drama

Ans. D) Drama

11. The purpose of using "..." in the above passage is to

- A) show omission.
- B) indicate pauses.
- C) shorten a dialogue.
- D) replace an idea.

Ans. B) indicate pauses.

12. Which option indicates that the poet lost consciousness?

- A) 'It was quiet and peaceful.'
- B) 'I crossed to oblivion.'
- C) 'Tender arms like Mother's.'
- D) 'It wiped out fear.'

Ans. B) 'I crossed to oblivion.'

D. But I was not finished. I still wondered if I would be terror-stricken when I was alone in the pool. I tried it. I swam the length up and down. Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, "Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here's to you! Look!" And off I'd go for another length of the pool.

13. Find a

synonym of trace

Ans. Vestige

14. Did the narrator actually speak to the terror?

Ans. No, he said this in his mind.

15. What quality can be seen in the author?

- A) Courage
- B) Terror
- C) fear
- D) All of these

Ans. A) Courage

Q16. Who is the author of Deep Water?

- A) William Shakespeare
- B) William George Bernard Shaw
- C) William Wordsworth
- D) William Douglas

Ans. D) William Douglas

Q17. For how many years had the author taught in high school in Yakima?

- A) 2 years
- B) 4 years
- C) 3 years
- D) 5 years

Ans. A) 2 years

Q18. What is the story Deep Water speaking about?

- A) Fear of water and the way to overcome it
- B) Fear of people
- C) Fear of dogs
- D) Fear of swimming

Ans. A) Fear of water and the way to overcome it

Q19. The chap that threw me in was saying, "But I was only fooling." Choose the option mentioning the personality traits of this 'chap'.

1. persuasive
 2. irresponsible
 3. domineering
 4. manipulative
 5. Callous
- A) 1, 2, 4
 - B) 2, 4, 5
 - C) 2, 3, 5
 - D) 1, 3, 5

Ans. C) 2, 3, 5

Q20. Where did the writer go when he was 3 or 4 years old in the story?

- A) Washington
- B) New Zealand
- C) California
- D) Canada

Ans. C) California

Q21. Why did he develop a fear of water?

- A) Because of knocking down by waves at a beach
- B) Because of a young boy
- C) Because of instructor
- D) Because of his mother

Ans. A) Because of knocking down by waves at a beach

Q22. The most appropriate justification for the title of the chapter 'Deep Water' is that

- A) it's about the dangerous depth of the swimming pool.
- B) It reveals the author's lack of surety about overcoming his fear of swimming.
- C) it underlines the author's fear of water and how he overcomes it.
- D) it includes the methods of the author's coach to overcome the fear of deep water

Ans. C) it underlines the author's fear of water and how he overcomes it.

Q23. How did the author learn swimming?

- A) With the help of a rope
- B) With the help of a friend
- C) With the help of his mother
- D) With the help of a swimming instructor

Ans. D) With the help of a swimming instructor Q24. What did William O Douglas desire for?

- A) Visit to California
- B) To be a judge
- C) To learn swimming
- D) To be with his mother

Ans. C) To learn swimming

Q25. Deep water is an excerpt from which book?

- A) Fear of water
- B) Of Men and Mountains
- C) How to Swim
- D) Fearless

Ans. B) Of Men and Mountains

Q26. Who threw Douglas into the swimming pool?

- A) A young boy
- B) Instructor
- C) Mother
- D) Watchman

Ans. A) A young boy

Q27. What was the fear in Douglas' mind?

- A) To be defeated
- B) To be pushed
- C) Being drowned
- D) None

Ans. C) Being drowned

Q28. At the age of 3 or 4 Douglas visited the beach with his father. What caused a terror in his heart then?

- A) The sight of the sea waves
- B) The overpowering force of the waves
- C) The colour of the water
- D) All of these

Ans. D) All of these

Q29. What plans did he make to come to the surface of the pool?

- A) Tried to jump and push himself up
- B) Shouted
- C) Cried aloud
- D) Shouted "help"

Ans. A) Tried to jump and push himself up

Q30. How did this experience affect the author?

- A) Became fearless
- B) Confident
- C) Overconfident
- D) Became aquaphobic

Ans. D) Became aquaphobic

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. How did Douglas finally get rid of the fear he had of water?

Ans. The terror that gripped Douglas as a result of his two mishaps with water was so intense that he sought professional help to overcome it. He hired a swimming instructor for six months of intensive training to ensure he overcame his fear of water, which he eventually did.

Q2. How did the incident at the YMCA pool affect Douglas?

Ans. Douglas, a ten-year-old boy, was standing alone at the YMCA pool when a big bully of a boy picked him up and tossed him into the deep end and he was instantly at the bottom. Even though he managed to escape with great difficulty, he could never return to the pool. He began to be afraid of and avoid water. When he was near water, a haunting terror gripped him.

Q3. When Douglas realized that he was sinking, how did he plan to save himself?

Ans. Douglas was terrified when he realized he was sinking, and it was then that he decided to make a big jump to the surface. He considered lying flat on the water for a while and then paddling to the pool's edge.

Q4. What did Douglas experience as he went down to the bottom of the pool for the first time?

Ans. When Douglas is pushed into the pool, he immediately sinks to the bottom. To him, the nine-foot-deep pool appears to be ninety feet deep. He has a strong feeling of unease and as if his lungs are about to burst. Despite feeling completely suffocated, he makes desperate attempts to survive.

Q5. What sort of terror seized Douglas as he went down the water with a yellow glow? How could he feel that he was still alive?

Ans. It was a nightmare for Douglas when he went down the water with a yellow glow. His legs were nearly paralyzed, his lungs ached, and his head throbbed. The thumping of his heart and the pounding in his head reminded him that he was still alive.

Q6. Why did William Douglas develop aversion to the water when he was three or four years old?

Ans. When William Douglas was three or four years old, he developed a phobia of water. He was standing with his father on a beach when a wave swept over him and knocked him down. He became breathless after being submerged in water. He was terrified and developed a lifelong aversion to water.

Q7. What misadventure did William Douglas experience at the YMCA pool?

Ans. Douglas became afraid of water after an incident at the YMCA pool in which he was thrown into the deeper end of the pool by a big boy. He went down into the water three times but never came back up. Though he was eventually saved, he developed a fear of water as his lungs filled with water. His head throbbed and his legs felt paralyzed, making him fear water for the rest of his life.

Q8. Why did Douglas go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire?

Ans. Douglas went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire to see if he still feared water. He wasn't sure if his fear of water had gone away despite his rigorous swimming practice. So he decided to test his swimming abilities at Lake Wentworth. He dove into the lake, and it wasn't until he'd swum across the shore and back that he knew his fear of water was gone.

Q9. What did Douglas learn from his experience at the YMCA pool?

Ans. Douglas was deeply affected by his drowning experience at the YMCA pool. He became terrified and terrified of death. He had felt both the sensation of death and the terror that fear of death can cause. As a result, his desire to live grew stronger. He gradually overcame his fear of swimming and learned to swim.

Q10. Which two frightening experiences did Douglas have in water in his childhood?

Ans. Douglas' first terrifying experience with water occurred when he was three or four years old. While surfing at a California beach, he was knocked down by the waves. He had been terrified at the time. Years later, his experience at the YMCA pool brought back unpleasant memories of being thrown into the deep end of the pool by an eighteen-year-old boy. Douglas developed a fear of water as a result of both of these experiences.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. "There was terror in my heart at the overpowering force of the waves." When did Douglas start fearing water? Which experience had further strengthened its hold on his mind and personality?

Ans. Douglas had been knocked down by the waves at a California beach when he was three or four years old. The waves swept over him, burying him beneath them. Water's overwhelming power terrified him, and he developed an aversion to it. When Douglas was eleven years old, his aversion to water reappeared and strengthened its grip on his mind and personality. Douglas was thrown into the deep end of the pool by an eighteen-year-old boy. For the second time, the descent into water was a terrifying experience. His legs were almost paralyzed, his lungs hurt, his head throbbed, and he felt like he was suffocating. Keeping his cool, he pushed himself to the surface of the pool, but his efforts were in vain.

When he regained consciousness, he was lying on his stomach beside the pool. Now the haunting fear of water gripped his heart, and he was mortally afraid of water for a long time.

Q2. A big boy threw Douglas into the swimming pool. How did this experience affect Douglas?

Ans. William Douglas had decided to overcome his childhood fear of water and joined the Y.M.C.A swimming pool. He had gradually gained confidence and was attempting to learn to swim by imitating other boys and using water wings. The misadventure occurred just as he was beginning to relax. A big boy, about eighteen years old, saw Douglas sitting by the pool and threw him into the deep end. Douglas was terrified, but he did not lose his mind. He planned on giving himself a thrust just as he touched the bottom, then rising to the surface of the water and floating towards the edge. His plans fell through, and he went up and down in the water three times, unable to reach the surface and breathe. When he was rescued, he had almost given up. The youngster admitted that he was merely 'fooling'.

Q3. We always admire those heroes who face challenges bravely in different phases of life and emerge successfully. Elaborate on this statement with reference to William Douglas.

Ans. Determination and perseverance are a set of characteristics and abilities that motivate people to set goals for themselves and then take action to achieve those goals. Douglas was able to overcome his fear of water by focusing on the values of positivity and courage. He was initially afraid of water, but his tenacity and determination led him to seek out an instructor and overcome his apprehension. Today's determination leads to tomorrow's success. It is that innate quality in our soul that comes to the surface when something irritates it. It reflects the values instilled in us by society and circumstance and enables us to overcome all obstacles.

There is always reverence for heroes like William Douglas who face challenges bravely and eventually triumph. For years, he was plagued by a fear of water. It took away his enjoyment of canoeing, swimming, fishing, and boating. Douglas was able to overcome his fear thanks to deliberate, planned, and consistent efforts. He was dead set on overcoming his fear, and it was only through his perseverance and tenacity that he triumphed.

Q4. With the help of courage one can achieve a lot. How did Douglas overcome his fear of water?

Ans. Douglas was terrified of water from a young age. His mishap at the YMCA pool exacerbated his fear of water. He was unable to participate in fishing and boating trips. He finally decided that he had to overcome his fear. He couldn't do it without professional assistance, so he hired a coach who gradually turned him into an excellent swimmer. Douglas was still unsatisfied. He took advantage of every opportunity to swim and dive in water, thereby confronting his fear. He was able to completely overcome his fear, prompting him to state that what one is afraid of is fear itself, and that if we can overcome that fear, we can achieve anything in life.

Q5. Douglas fully realized the truth of Roosevelt's statement, "All we have to fear is fear itself." How did this realization help him brush aside his fear and become an expert swimmer?

Ans. Fear is a crippling emotion. It limits all kinds of efforts, creativity, and ventures that one might consider. Fear, however, can be overcome with grit, determination, and hard work. This was demonstrated by William Douglas. He overcame his fear of water by first psychoanalyzing it and then treating it methodically. Douglas has developed hydrophobia as a result of his misadventure at the YMCA pool. Regardless, he hired a professional trainer and learned to swim step by step. Douglas was made a swimmer by the trainer due to his strong willpower and rigorous practice.

Douglas, however, was not satisfied and set a higher standard for his perfection, devising various tests and situations to overcome fear in all forms. As a result, Douglas was eventually able to overcome his fear of water and become an expert swimmer.

Q6. Desire, determination and diligence lead to success. Explain the value of these qualities in the light of Douglas' experience in "Deep Water".

Ans. Determination and perseverance are a set of characteristics and abilities that motivate people to set goals for themselves and then take action to achieve those goals. Douglas was able to overcome his fear of water by focusing on the values of positivity and courage. He was initially afraid of water, but his tenacity and determination led him to seek out an instructor and overcome his apprehension. Today's determination leads to tomorrow's success. It is that innate quality in our soul that comes to the surface when something irritates it. It reflects the values instilled in us by society and circumstance and enables us to overcome all obstacles. There is always admiration for heroes like William Douglas who face challenges bravely and eventually triumph. For years, he was plagued by a fear of water. It took away his enjoyment of canoeing, swimming, fishing, and boating. Douglas was able to overcome his fear thanks to deliberate, planned, and consistent efforts. He was dead set on overcoming his fear, and it was only through his perseverance and tenacity that he triumphed.

Q7. Describe the efforts made by Douglas to save himself from drowning in the YMCA swimming pool.

Ans. Douglas was dragged into the deep end of the YMCA swimming pool. Those nine feet seemed a long way down at the time. As soon as his feet touched the ground, he gathered all of his strength and sprung upward. He slowly arose, opened his eyes, and saw only water. He reached up as if for a rope, but his hands only clutched at water. He flailed at the water's surface, swallowed, and choked. He attempted to raise his legs, but they hung as if paralyzed. He began his journey back to the pool's bottom once more. Then he remembered the plan: he would spring from the bottom of the pool and float to the surface like a cork. He'd lie flat on the water and thrash around with his arms and legs. Then he would get to the pool's edge and be safe. The jump made no difference yet again and Douglas eventually gave up and relaxed as he passed out.

Q8. Courage and optimism are attributes that can make the impossible possible. Elucidate with reference to Deep Water.

Ans. Man has only succeeded in making the impossible possible through courage, desire, and determination. The best example is William Douglas' struggle to overcome his fear of water. Douglas developed a fear of water as a result of his near-drowning experience at the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool. Panic attacks paralyzed him the moment he entered the water. He had lived for many years with this fear. But, in the end, he decided to overcome his fear and was successful due to his perseverance and positive attitude. He hired a swimming instructor, who transformed him into a swimmer through rigorous training and special technique. Douglas had to overcome this fear for nearly seven months. But, in the end, Douglas demonstrated that it was courage, determination, desire, diligence, and optimism that enabled him to overcome his fear.

Q9. How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer?

Ans. The instructor worked hard to 'build a swimmer' out of Douglas. He recognised Douglas's deathly fear of water and practiced with him five days a week for an hour each day. He devised a novel method of teaching him to swim. He fastened a rope to Douglas' belt, which passed through a pulley that ran over an overhead cable. He made Douglas move back and forth in the pool while holding the end of the rope in his hand, without causing him much fear. Douglas was taught how to exhale underwater and inhale by raising his nose.

This exercise was repeated several times, and they swam across the pool week after week. Douglas was then taught to kick with his legs by the instructor. His legs did not work at first, but he was eventually able to control and command them. Finally, his instructor transformed him into a near-perfect swimmer.

Q10. 'This handicap stayed with me as the years rolled by.' Which handicap is being referred to and what are the events that made Douglas handicapped?

Ans. The handicap in question is Douglas's fear of water, which he developed as a result of some unfortunate events in his childhood. As a result, he was unable to participate in water sports or swim. His father took him to the beach in California when he was three or four years old. Douglas was knocked down by the sea waves and nearly drowned. He developed a phobia of water. Furthermore, when he was ten or eleven years old, a thug threw him into a swimming pool. He had a terrible experience at the time. He was almost submerged in water, which suffocated him and paralyzed his limbs. He did, however, avoid drowning. Since then, he has been afraid of water and has been unable to enjoy activities such as canoeing, swimming, rafting, fishing, and so on. This became a disadvantage for him because he was deprived of the enjoyment of water sports and swimming.