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CHAPTER - 3

DEEP WATER

— WILLIAM DOUGLAS

★ QUESTION - ANSWERS

Q1.) What is the "misadventure" that William Douglas speaks about?

Ans. William Douglas has just learned swimming. One day, an eighteen-year old Bruiser picked him up and tossed him into the nine-foot deep end of the YMCA pool. He hit the water surface in a sitting position. He swallowed water and went at once to the bottom. He nearly died in this misadventure.

Q2.) What were the series of emotions and fears that Douglas experienced when he was thrown into the pool? What plans did he make to come to the surface?

Ans. Douglas was frightened when he was thrown into the pool. However, he was not frightened out of his wits. While sinking down into the pool, he made a plan. He would make a big jump when his feet hit the bottom. He would come to the surface like a cork, lie flat on it and paddled to the edge of the pool.

Q3.) How did this experience affect him?

Ans. This experience revived his ~~emergence~~ aversion to the water. He shook and cried when he laid on the bed. For many days, there was a haunting fear in his heart. The slightest exertion upset him, ~~making~~ ^{making} him wobbly in the knees and sick to his stomach. He never went back to the pool.

Q4.) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?

Ans. His fear of water destroyed his fishing trips. It deprived him of the joy of canoeing, boating and swimming. Douglas used every day he knew to overcome his fear he had developed since his childhood. He determined to get an instructor and learn swimming to get over this fear of water.

Q5.) How did the instructor "build a swimmer" out of Douglas?

Ans. The instructor built a swimmer out of Douglas piece by piece. For three months, he held him high on a rope attached to his belt. He went back and across the pool. Panic seized the author every time. The instructor taught Douglas to put his face under water and exhale and to raise his nose and inhale. Then, Douglas had to kick with his legs for many weeks. After seven months, the instructor told him to swim the length of the pool.

Q6.) How did Douglas make sure that he conquered the old terror?

Ans. Douglas still felt a terror-sticken when he was alone in the pool. He was still not satisfied so he went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island and swam two miles across the lake. He had his doubts so he went to Meade Glacier and swam across to the other shore and back. Thus, he made sure that he had conquered the old terror.

Q7.) How does Douglas make clear to the reader the sense of panic that

gripped him as he almost drowned? Describe the details that have made the description vivid.

Ans. Douglas gives a detailed account of his feelings and efforts to save himself from getting drowned. He uses literary devices to make the description graphic and vivid.

For example, "Those nine feet were more like ninety", "My lungs were ready to burst." "I came up slowly, I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water... I grew panicky" "I was suffocating. I tried to yell, but no sound came out!"

(Q8) Why does Douglas as an adult recount a childhood experience of terror and his conquering of it? What larger meaning does he draw from this experience?

Ans. During his childhood, Douglas grappled with terror, but his triumph displayed determination, willpower, and ~~character~~ character development. He derived a profound insight, "In death there is peace," realizing terror solely stemmed from fear of death. Confronting mortality amplified his will ~~be~~ to live, empowering him to roam mountain paths, scale peaks, and cast aside fear.

(Q9) Why did Douglas failed to come to the surface of the pool as he hoped to?

Ans. When Douglas was thrown into the pool by a muscular boy, he landed in a sitting position, swallowed water and touched the bottom. He was frightened but he had not lost his bit. He thought of a strategy but his lungs were about to burst. He thought to spring back to the surface like a cork but he moved slowly. He grew panicky ~~and~~ and saw water everywhere. He reached up as if to catch a rope with his hands but he could not clutch water and was paralysed.

Q10) In the midst of the terror came a touch of reason. How did the two forces work in opposite direction and how did Douglas fail?

Ans. Reason told him to jump when he hit the bottom as he felt the tiles under him, he jumped with everything ~~at~~ but the jump made no difference. A mass of yellow water held him. He shook and trembled with fright. His arms and legs would not move. He tried to call for help but nothing happened.

Q11) Why does Douglas say the instructor was finished but I was not finished? How did he overpower tiny vestiges of the old terror?

Ans. The instructor's ~~work~~ ^{work} was over when he built a swimmer out of Douglas piece by piece. However, Douglas was not satisfied as the old terror would return when he swam alone in the pool. He would frown on terror, go for another length of the pool.

Q12) Why did Douglas go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire? How did he make his terror free?

Ans. Douglas was not sure whether all the terror had left even after the training from October to April and practice till July. So he went to Lake Wentworth and swam two miles. Terror returned only once when he was in the middle of the lake. He had put his face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in a smaller size. He laughed and rebuked terror. His terror fled away and he swam home.