

Deep Water Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

Q1. “Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart.” What does the above statement speak of the father? [CBSE 2024]

Ans. The father’s laughter shows his ignorance of the danger his son is experiencing. He sees the situation as a joke, while the son is genuinely terrified, indicating a lack of understanding and empathy from the father.

Q2. “I was frightened, but not yet frightened out of my wits.” Says Douglas. Which qualities of the speaker are highlighted in the above statement? [CBSE 2024]

Ans. The statement highlights Douglas’s courage and determination. Despite being scared, he remains composed and fights to overcome his fear, demonstrating resilience and the will to face challenges.

Q3. What handicap did Douglas suffer from? How did he overcome that? [CBSE 2023]

Ans. Douglas suffered from a handicap that was the fear of water. He had immense desire of swimming in natural waters but could not fulfil it due to the fear. He realized that he had to be determined to overcome the fear. Once he got determined, he hired a swimming instructor and learnt swimming. The fear would return at times but he would face it and see it vanish. Thus, with determination and perseverance, William overtook the fear.

Q4. How did Douglas develop a fear of water? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. Since the age of three or four, when Douglas accompanied his father to the beach in California, he realized his fear of water. He would get frightened by the power of the waves which threw him, swept over him and buried him in the water. It was just when he had started feeling comfortable in the pool in YMCA that an incident took place. A big boy picked up the author and threw him in the pool at the deep end. He got water in the mouth and sank to the bottom of the pool. He got suffocated due to lack of air, could not scream for help, moved his arms in desperation but all his efforts failed. He sucked water and then suddenly, all the efforts stopped. He felt relaxed, peaceful, fearless and sleepy as he drifted away to death.

Q5. Douglas says, “The instructor was finished, but I was not.” What did the instructor teach Douglas? How did Douglas finish the task begun by the instructor? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. The instructor taught Douglas to swim and his step by step training made him a good swimmer. Once Douglas learnt swimming, he tried swimming in natural waters.

At times, the fear would return but now Douglas would laugh at it and it would vanish. Thus, he realised that fear was only in the mind.

Q6. Douglas has a near-death experience in his childhood which has a negative as well as a positive outcome. Justify the statement with evidences from the text. [CBSE 2019]

Ans. Douglas' near-death experience in his childhood has negative as well as positive outcomes. His misadventure at the YMCA swimming pool results in him developing an acute fear of water which took complete possession of him whenever he was anywhere near water. It ruined his fishing trips and deprived him of the joys of canoeing, boating and swimming. But once Douglas decided that he had to overcome his fear of water, it gave him a sense of determination. With his perseverance he made sure that he accomplished what he thought could not be possible. It also made him courageous and developed a positive attitude in him that aided him in achieving the goals he had set for himself.

For the complete set of previous year questions of Deep Water, [Click Here](#)

Deep Water Summary, Word meanings, [Click Here](#)

Deep Water Important Questions, [Click Here](#)

Deep Water MCQs, [Click Here](#)

Flamingo Book Word meanings of all lessons, [Click Here](#)

Deep Water Character Sketches, [Click Here](#)