

CBSE TEST PAPER-04
Class 12 English Core (Deep Water)

General Instructions:-

- All questions are compulsory.
 - Question No.1 to 7 carries 3 marks each.
 - Question No. 8 to 10 carries 6 marks each.
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1. What were the series of emotions and fears that Douglas experienced when he was thrown into the pool?
 2. What plans did he make to come to the surface?
 3. How did this experience affect him?
 4. What unpleasant memories did the introduction to YMCA pool revive?
 5. Who was the person who ducked Douglas in the swimming pool and why?
 6. What was the reason that withheld Douglas going into water?
 7. How did he finally realize that he had conquered the terror of water?
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- 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?
 - How does Douglas make clear to the reader the sense of panic that gripped him as he almost drowned?
 - “All we have to fear is fear itself.” - Discuss.

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Answers

1. When Douglas was thrown into the pool, he felt the nine feet of deep end of pool were more like ninety, and before he touched bottom his lungs were ready to burst. He got panicky and he was suffocating.
2. He planned that as soon as he touched the bottom of the pool, he would kick the surface and bob up like a cork, paddle on the water and reach for the rope.
3. This experience left him shattered. Several hours later, he walked home. He was weak and trembling. He shook and cried when he lay on his bed. He couldn't eat that night. For days a haunting fear was in his heart. The slightest exertion upset him, making him wobbly in the knees and sick to his stomach.
4. The unpleasant memories of his childhood revived when he was introduced to YMCA pool. The memory of the overpowering force of water which he felt when he was thrown down by the powerful wave at the beach where he went with his father at the age of four.
5. Douglas was alone at the swimming pool waiting for a few people to come when a big bruiser of a boy came and ducked him. After Douglas was saved, the boy said he was just fooling as he didn't know that Douglas was learning to swim.
6. The terror of water and its overpowering force was the reason that withheld Douglas going into water. He was terrorized by the force of water when he was only four and was knocked down by a wave.
7. Douglas ensured that he has conquered the fear of water by going from Tieton to Conrad Meadows and up the Conrad Creek Trail to Meade Glacier, where he stripped, dived into the lake, and swam across to the other shore and back.
8. Douglas as an adult recount a childhood experience of terror and his conquering of it to inform his readers what the terror or panic of water did to him. He was unable to learn to swim when he was young. He couldn't enjoy bathing, swimming, boating, rafting, canoeing and even fishing as he used to get terrorized even at the sight of water. He narrated the incident to tell his readers what terror can do and if not overcome, it can ruin the life of a person. He quoted two incidents which established the fear of water, but he didn't give up. He finally hired an instructor and learnt swimming. He didn't budge till he was able to swim perfectly, thus conquering his fear to establish that we shouldn't fear

but fear the fear.

9. Douglas narrated two incidents of his life when he felt the force of water that established terror in his heart. First it was when he was at the beach with his father. He was only four years old and a wave knocked him down and swept over him. Thereafter at the YMCA pool where he was ducked in deep end of the pool by a bruiser. He had almost drowned. The terror overtook him. He wanted to go for boating, rafting, canoeing or fishing etc. But every time the fear of water ruined his trips. The experience had a deep meaning for him, as only those who have known stark terror and conquered it can appreciate. In death there is peace. There is terror only in the fear of death.
10. William O. Douglas' 'Deep Water' justifies President Roosevelt's assertion that - "All we have to fear, is fear itself." Douglas' aversion to water began with his mother's warnings about the Yakima river and a childhood sea holiday where he first experienced the power of the water. It was followed by a 'misadventure' at the YMCA pool, where a bully pushed him into the water nearly drowning him. This incident turned the fear into a phobia. However, a determined Douglas decided to challenge this weakness. With the help of an instructor, and using a pulley connected by a belt to his waist, he re-learned how to swim in a pool. He learned to dip his head, exhale underwater and inhale on resurfacing. Even after the trainer declared success, Douglas tested his skill in treacherous and unfamiliar waters till his phobia vanished completely. Thereafter, William O. Douglas realized that once the 'fear of fear' disappeared, true success awaited.