

Deep Water Summary Class 12

Deep Water Summary Class 12 - In this post, I am providing a comprehensive summary of "Deep Water" for Class 12, relevant for the upcoming Board Exam in 2023-24. If your goal is to achieve a high score in the CBSE Board Exam for 2023, it is essential that you thoroughly grasp and assimilate the insights offered in this summary.

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About the Author

William Orville Douglas (1898 – 1980) remains a prominent figure in American legal and political history. An accomplished jurist and seasoned politician, he achieved the remarkable distinction of serving as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Handpicked by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Douglas's confirmation at the tender age of 40 marked a pivotal moment in his career, making him one of the youngest justices ever appointed to the nation's highest court.

Douglas's tenure on the Supreme Court was nothing short of legendary, spanning an impressive 36 years and 209 days, from 1939 to 1975. This remarkable duration not only underscores his unwavering dedication to the principles of justice but also cements his place in history as the justice with the longest-serving term in the annals of the Supreme Court. Throughout his tenure, Justice Douglas left an indelible mark on American jurisprudence, contributing significantly to the evolution of legal doctrines and landmark decisions that continue to shape the legal landscape of the United States to this day. His legacy endures as a testament to his enduring commitment to the pursuit of justice and the rule of law.

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Theme of Deep Water

The author, William Douglas, talks about his fear of water and how he finally overcame it. He narrates an autobiographical incident that occurred when he was ten or eleven years old and almost drowned in the Y.M.C.A swimming pool. As a result, he developed a fear of water, which he was able to conquer after several years, by sheer determination.

Message of Deep Water Summary

The story "Deep Waters" tells us how the writer overcame his fear of water and learned swimming through sheer determination and will power. He had developed a terror of water since childhood. William Douglas was able to overcome his fear by sheer determination. The message conveyed by this story is that it is not death but the fear of death that creates terror in our mind, so that fear needs to be shaken off. Also, any fears can be conquered if we try hard enough.

Justification of Title Deep Water

This extract is appropriately entitled "Deep Water". The author recounts his fear of swimming following an incident in which he had been swept away by a wave. Another incident which further aggravated his fear was when a bully pushed him into the deep side of a swimming pool and he nearly drowned. But slowly, he overcame his fear through determination and strong will. He learnt swimming from an instructor. He swam in different pools and lakes to overcome his fear. The title also signifies that the author's fear was a deep rooted one.

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Deep Water Summary

"Deep Water" tells us how the writer overcame his fear of water and learned swimming. He had developed a fear of water during childhood. When he was three or four years old, the writer had gone to California with his father. One day on the beach,

the waves knocked him down and swept over him. He was terrified but his father laughed as he knew that the author was not in any real danger.

This experience created for him an aversion to water and bred a permanent fear of water. Another, more serious, incident occurred when the writer was trying to learn swimming in the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool. One day, while he was waiting for the other boys, a bully boy of eighteen suddenly played a dangerous prank and pushed him into the water. The writer was terribly frightened.

He went down nine feet into the water. His lungs were full of unreleased air. When he reached the bottom, he jumped upward with all his strength. He came up, but very slowly. He tried to catch hold of something, but grasped only at water. The writer then tried to shout but no sound came out. He went down again.

His lungs ached, head throbbed and he grew dizzy. He felt paralyzed with fear. Only the movement of his heart told him that he was alive. Again he tried to jump up. But this time, his limbs would not move at all. He looked for ropes, ladders and water wings, but all in vain. Then he went down again, the third time; this time all efforts and fear ceased.

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He was moving towards peaceful death. The writer was at peace. When he came to consciousness, he found himself lying on the side of the pool with the other boy nearby and the coach remonstrating with him for nearly causing him to drown. As a result of the near death experience, the terror that the writer had experienced in the pool never left him.

It haunted him for years. It spoilt many of his expeditions of canoeing, swimming and fishing. It spoilt his pleasures in Maine lakes, new Hampshire, Deschutes, Columbia and Bumping Lake, etc. Yet, the writer was determined to conquer his fear. He took the help of a swimming instructor to learn swimming.

The instructor taught him various actions necessary in swimming. He trained Douglas how to breathe while swimming. He practiced this for several weeks. He had to kick with his legs for a few weeks on the side of the pool. At last, he combined all these actions and made Douglas swim. Thus, he learned swimming; yet the terror continued.

Whenever he was in water, his terror returned and the author tried to face the new challenge. When the terror came, he confronted it by asking it sarcastically, what could it really do to him? He plunged into the water as if to defy the fear. Once he took courage, the terror vanished. He faced the challenge deliberately in various places like the Warm Lake. This is how he at last conquered his fear of water.

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