

**CLASS- XI**  
**LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION ----18/07/17**  
**SUBJECT---ENGLISH**  
**ASSIGNMENT ----5**

**DEEP WATER**  
**William Douglas**

The author William Douglas talks about his fear of water and how he finally overcomes 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. In result he developed a fear of water, which he was able to conquer after several years because of sheer determination. **The lesson conveys the message that is not death but fear of death that creates terror and anxiety in our mind so the fear needs to be shaken off.**

**Notes**

- ❖ A childhood Longing
  - ) Douglas plans to learn swimming.
  - ) Y.M. C.A. Pool chosen as safe as Yakima.
  - ) River had claimed many lives (Treachorous)
- ❖ Preparation to start swimming
  - ) Gets a pair of water wings
  - ) Ashamed of exposing skinny legs
  - ) Decides to learn by imitating others.
- ❖ Fear off water
  - ) The result of childhood fear
  - ) Father took it lightly but Douglas became terrified
  - ) Again Y.M.C.A port revived unpleasant memories
  - ) Again strike with fear had Misadventure in pool
- ❖ One day sitting alone at the pool waiting for others.
  - ) Soon eighteen year old boy arrive.
  - ) Calls him skinny hurls him into deep side of water
  - ) Douglas falls in to water in a sitting position.
- ❖ Douglas plan to come out of water
  - ) Goes to the bottom of pool
  - ) Is frightened but alert
  - ) Plans to push himself upward on touching the bottom
  - ) Next to lie flat and reach at the edge of the pool
  - ) Nine feet appear like ninety feet
  - ) Lungs ready to burst
  - ) Douglas hits the bottom with whole strength
  - ) Reaches to surface but again starts going down
  - ) Tries to clutch a rope, to find stairs\_
  - ) Nothing but water runs through fingers
  - ) Feels suffocated
  - ) Water swallowed

- ) Legs stiff like life less objects
- ❖ Effort in vain
  - ) A Futile struggle
  - ) Dizziness with aching lungs and throbbing head
  - ) Acute physical discomfort
  - ) Unable even to scream
  - ) Still does not give up
  - ) Comes out of water-but starts going down for the third time
  - ) Douglas now gives up all efforts
  - ) Total relaxation
  - ) Passes into oblivion
- ❖ Consciousness regained
  - ) Find himself out of the pool vomiting
  - ) The matured boy makes excuse
  - ) Hours later weak and trembling reaches home.
  - ) Develops phobia of water
  - ) Avoid going close to water bodies.
- ❖ Longing of swimming Revived again
  - ) Fear of childhood followed him
  - ) Fear deprive him from swimming, fishing, canoeing boating
  - ) Determined to finally defeat fear
  - ) Engaged an instructor
  - ) A rope attached to belt put around him
  - ) Rope went through pulley
  - ) Practiced for weeks together
- ❖ Overcome fear
  - ) Learnt exhaling, inhaling while swimming
  - ) Initially legs were stiff- but gradually relaxed
  - ) Finally given clean chit by instructor
  - ) Again tried swimming alone in pool
  - ) All fear shed off
- ❖ Winner Douglas got a new experience.
  - ) Went to warm lake
  - ) Dived and swam across the lake
  - ) Fear of water won
  - ) Realize- death is full of peace
  - ) Fear of death terrorizes

## QUESTIONS

- 1 . How did Douglas make sure that he conquered the old terror? 2
2. How did the instructor turn Douglas into a swimmer? 2
3. Why did Douglas go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire? How did he make his terror flee? 2
- 4 What the 'misadventure' that William Douglas speaks about? 3
5. How did Douglas remove his residual doubts about his fear of water? 3
6. Why did Douglas's mother recommend that he should learn swimming at the YMCA swimming pool? 3
7. What efforts did Douglas make to get over his fear of water? 5
8. How did Douglas try to save himself from drowning in the YMCA pool? 6
9. How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer? 6