

“Cooks Brook”

Poem by Al Pittman

Pages 10-11

Please answer ALL QUESTIONS using complete sentences and paragraph format (if required).

Think about a time when you’ve done something that was physically challenging. How did you feel BEFORE you did it? How did you feel DURING the activity? How did you feel AFTER? Was there physical danger involved? If so, why did you do it? Were any of your friends involved?

PREVIEW VOCABULARY

What do the following terms mean?

Buoyant:

Engulf:

Poised:

Defied:

EXAMINE TEXT FEATURES

Quickly look over the poem. What do you notice about the punctuation?

READING COMPREHENSION

1. Find the words and phrases that suggest how the speaker feels about diving into the pool. Do you think these words/phrases are effective? Explain.
2. Why does the speaker feel that “it would be better to die/skull smashed open in the water/than it would be to climb/backwards down to the beach”? Have you ever felt like this? What were the circumstances?
3. What do you think is the MAIN IDEA or THEME of the poem? Find evidence from the poem to support your answer.
4. Those who dive are considered “the brave few of us.” Do you agree that they are brave? Explain.

Check the glossary on page 346 for the definition of CONFLICT. Write it down here.

Three of the four types of conflict are portrayed in “Cooks Brook:” person vs. nature, person vs. self, and person vs. society. Go through the poem and find specific words or phrases that support each of the three types of conflict.

Person vs. Nature:

Person vs. Self:

Person vs. Society:

Check the glossary (pg. 346) for the following definitions. Write them down and find an example from the poem for each:

Metaphor:

Simile:

Alliteration:

