

Close to the water edge

Family



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Close to the Water's Edge Section B In our modern lives we have to form our own identity. We need to make a lot of choices concerning who we are and how we would like our lives to develop. But of course our identity is greatly affected by our childhood. The choices made by our parents and their parents are probably the most important choices ever made for us. The few people who rise in the social hierarchy is a proof of this. The short story is about the importance of our foundations. The grandmother did not dare to swim in the ocean, even though she was a rather competent swimmer, because she did not know when the water would become too deep for her. Likewise, she did not leave her husband even though she wanted to because she thought that there was no other way than to remain a pig farmer's wife for the rest of her life. She did not think that she had other options. She was scared of not having a foundation. On the other hand the mother was not scared of leaving her husband. She left him and married a millionaire instead. But this was certainly not in order to get rid of the security a good foundation will give you. She married the millionaire in order to get a much stronger base. In this way she would no longer have to care about money, she became able to send her son to the best schools and to live a composed life etc. The son, who does not approve of his mother's choice, is trying to break free of her and create his own foundation. But he fails. He is even close to drowning in the attempt. The experiment costs him his clothes. This makes him think of the first species that crawled ashore. They had no foundation onto which they could tie their identity. The young man must feel sort of the same way. He has some quite mixed up roots with his grandparents being poor pig farmers and his mother being married to a millionaire. So the main character is trying to create his own identity, but

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fails. He cannot liberate himself from his roots just like his mother cannot liberate herself from her roots. She was born the daughter of a farmer, and that will always be part of her roots. The most important part of the short story is that the young man does not drown. He is actually capable of rescuing himself from of a deadly situation. He manages to get back to the beach. But does he succeed in separating himself apart from the choices made by his mother? In the end it is revealed that all he ever wanted was a normal life. This gives us a clue that he has not achieved this normal life which he is seeking and probably never will, because of his mother's choice which includes a rich stepfather and the life in luxury which he is used to live. The millionaire seems to have issues towards homosexuals. He does not want them in the army (" Says if he's elected president, he's gonna let queers into military." (ll 88-89) " What kind of a defence would that be?" (l 93)) and makes it clear to the young man and his mother that he does certainly not approve of this conduct of life. The boy on the other hand could be a homosexual, he does not bring any girls home and he is certain that he will never get married. This I mention in order to make it clear that this is a quite important topic for homosexuals. You cannot decide whether you want to be gay or not, but you can certainly decide whether or not you want anybody to know. If he did not live with this stepfather he would probably have the courage to tell his mother, but because of her choice on living with the millionaire he does not think he will be accepted as the one he really is. Just like his grandmother did not think that she would not have chance of a decent life without her husband, who was actually ready to leave her alone on the coast. So there are not anybody in the short story (forgetting the millionaire of who we do not know much) who can actually be the way they

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would like to. Their identities are established by either the choices made by their parents or the choices made for them by society. Section C. 1. A lot of people are of the opinion that we live in a society where we are free to choose whatever we like. And of course they are right. Looking back at how little most people used to decide for themselves we do have a lot of choices. But still I think that something is continuously missing. As we have learned from the short story Close to the Water's Edge most of us still think we need to make some choices in order to fit into society or to be accepted by their families and friends. I do not think that we will ever be capable of liberating ourselves completely. We all have a need to be accepted by both our friends and family, but certainly also by strangers. Nobody likes to be disapproved of, not even by accidentally strangers on the street. So the extent to which we are free to choose has been expanded, but we are not capable of choose everything for ourselves. Today we still see very few who does not choose an education which is an education very much like their parents'. Inheritance and environment is the biggest factor concerning our lives. This is why it is so sad when you meet people with a lot of prejudices, what kind of life do their dear ones live? Unfortunately they are hard to miss in the picture of the street. These people affect their surroundings in a way that can make everybody around them insecure on whether they dare live their lives as they want to or not. Like the young man in the short story Close to the Water's Edge. If there can be made any conclusion, it must be that we cannot liberate us to the extent that many would like to. We need to feel accepted and to fit. Humans were never made for a solitary life. Translation Recent research shows that the importance of sleep is surprisingly high for the ability to remember. The human memory is built in stages. First you

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gather knowledge about a subject - for instance by reading - but when you go on to other activities you start to lose this knowledge. However, while you sleep, part of the lost knowledge is recreated. The next stage is not reached until the next day when you are to try to recall what you read. If you have had a good night's sleep, the brains will remember new knowledge better than if the sleep was insufficient. From these pieces of information the conclusion is clear: a good night's sleep helps tremendously on the memory.