**For Julia, in Deep Water**

**By John N. Morris**

The instructor we hire  
because she does not love you  
Leads you into the deep water,  
The deep end  
Where the water is darker—  
Her open, encouraging arms  
That never get nearer   
Are merciless for your sake.

You will dream this water always  
Where nothing draws nearer,  
Wasting your valuable breath  
You will scream for your mother—  
Only your mother is drowning  
Forever in the thin air  
Down at the deep end.  
She is doing nothing,  
She never did anything harder.  
And I am beside her.

I am beside her in this imagination.  
We are waiting  
Where the water is darker.  
You are over your head,  
Screaming, you are learning  
Your way toward us,  
You are learning how  
In the helpless water  
It is with our skill  
We live in what kills us.

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1. **[**Comprehension] **Summarize** this poem. What **literally** is happening in the poem? Who are the characters? What is happening to them?
2. [Context] Identify the **mood** and the **tone** of this poem. What aspects of the poem contribute to the stated mood and tone? Provide evidence.
3. [Comprehension] Identify the following characters in this poem (make a claim) and provide **evidence/reasoning** for your answers. **How do you know who these characters are?**
   1. “she” (line 2)
   2. “you” (line 3)
   3. “I” (line 19)
   4. “we” (last line)
4. [Analysis] Using TWO different **interpretive** **lenses**, analyze the meaning of the following lines and discuss how the lenses CHANGE the meaning of the lines.

You are over your head, / Screaming, you are learning/ Your way toward us,

**Lens 1**

**Lens 2**

She is doing nothing, / She never did anything harder. / And I am beside her. / I am beside her in this imagination.

**Lens 1**

**Lens 2**

1. [Analysis] What, in your opinion, is the **theme** or message of the poem? How does your **lens** support this message? Provide a **claim** about the poem’s meaning and support it with **direct** evidence from the poem.