

“Through the Tunnel” by Doris Lessing
Questions for Study and Discussion

1) What concerns does Jerry's mother have about raising him?	
2) Describe Jerry's encounter with the local boys. What effect does it have on him?	
3) How does Jerry prepare for his task?	
4) Briefly summarize how Jerry finally swims through the tunnel.	
5) What happens after Jerry passes the test he sets for himself?	
6) Describe Jerry's relationship with his mother at the beginning of the story. How does it change by the story's end? Support your answer with examples.	
7) What must Jerry prove to himself by swimming through the tunnel?	

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8) At the end of the story why is going to the bay “no longer of the least importance” to Jerry?	
9) Why do many young people set up situations in which they test themselves, such as Jerry does? Give examples.	
10)What are the two opposing forces in Jerry’s internal conflict?	
11)How does the physical challenge make the internal conflict more exciting?	