

Connect to the Literature

1. What Do You Think?

What scene from the essay stands out most in your mind? Why?

Comprehension Check

- Why does White take a vacation at this particular lake?
- Which change at the lake bothers White the most?
- When does White feel a “chill of death”?

Think Critically

2. Why do you think this return trip to the lake is so important to White?

THINK ABOUT

- what he remembers about this childhood place
- the fact that he brings his son with him
- details in the first paragraph

3. What insights does White seem to gain from this experience?

THINK ABOUT

- his identification with his son
- his identification with his father
- what has changed and what has stayed the same over time

4. What do you make of White’s phrase “the chill of death” in the last sentence of the essay? Explain your response.

5. ACTIVE READING IDENTIFYING COMPARISON AND CONTRAST

In this essay, White talks about the similarities as well as the differences between the lake of his childhood and the lake now. Which do you think are more important to White, the similarities or the differences? Refer to your Venn diagram as well as the text in explaining your opinion.

6. What insights about “Once More to the Lake” do you gain from reading “A Letter from E. B. White”?

Extend Interpretations

7. **Critic’s Corner** White’s friend and *New Yorker* colleague James Thurber once praised him for “those silver and crystal sentences which have a ring like nobody else’s sentences in the world.” In your opinion, which sentences in the essay might be described this way?

8. **Connect to Life** In this essay, written more than half a century ago, White suggests that there is a “strong indestructible chain” linking the generations. Do you believe such a chain exists today? Explain your opinion.