# “Through the Tunnel” by Doris Lessing

**Questions: Answer in complete sentences!**

1. Describe in detail the mother-son relationship at the beginning of the story.
2. Why does Jerry’s mother feel she is too protective?
3. Why does Jerry leave his mother at the beach?
4. Where does Jerry go on the second day of his vacation? What makes Jerry feel humiliated in front of the older boys?
5. What steps does he take to prepare for the swim? Provide four.
6. Why is the journey so dangerous?
7. Describe his fears (4).
8. Why was it so important for Jerry to swim through the tunnel?
9. How does Jerry feel about himself after swimming thought the tunnel? Why?
10. Describe Jerry’s relationship with his mother at the end? What has changed?
11. What important lesson did Jerry learn about himself?
12. Why do you think it is so important to Jerry to take the risk he did? Think about his age and family situation, his interactions with the older boys, how he reacted when the boys left, and what he was trying to prove to himself.