

UNIT 1 Defining Moments Fiction Connection

A STEM school
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



from SWIMMING TO ANTARTICA

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Human beings are capable of extraordinary feats.
Do you know about any particular person that did something special?
What might have motivated them?

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.



August 7, 1987. At the height of the Cold War...

- U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" was the #1 Song in the U.S. charts.
- Oprah Winfrey had Eddie Murphy as a guest in her show.
- and Lynne Cox became the 1st woman to swim from the U.S. to the Soviet Union, 4.3 km across the Bering Sea in water temperature averaging 43 to 44 °F.



THE SWIM THAT LIFTED THE IRON CURTAIN



Only 2.7 miles separate the Little and Big Diomedede Islands in the Bering Strait, but the international border between the US and Soviet Union/Russia made this distance nearly impossible to cross for much of the twentieth century. The “Superpowers” occasionally used the islands to spy on each other.



On August 7, 1987 the American swimmer Lynne Cox confronted the icy waters of the Bering Strait and the frigid political climate of the Cold War by swimming from the US Little Diomedede Island to the Soviet Big Diomedede. The swim was a peace gesture, inspired by a dream to bridge the distance between the two countries involved in the Cold War.

THE COLD WAR



The **Cold War** was a political and military rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies that developed after World War II. The divisiveness between them was called the **Iron Curtain**. It lasted from approximately 1945 until 1991. The most significant effects of the Cold War was the **arms race** that saw both the United States and the Soviet Union stockpiling nuclear weapons, building hydrogen bombs, and military buildup; and its impact upon people's attitudes about the future of Humanity.

LITERARY CONCEPT



Autobiography

An autobiography is an account of a person's life, written by that person. In the selection, Cox describes what she does and the reasons for her actions. Pay attention to the similarities, between the Cox you meet in the Bering Sea and the younger Cox, in the second part of the selection, at the swimming pool. Consider the personal qualities she reveals about herself in the two settings.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 126 -134, in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Autobiography** - Cox begins her autobiography with a swim she attempted as an adult but goes on to describe her early experiences as a swimmer. Why do you think she structured, or arranged, the opening of her book in this way? How might the effect of the narrative have changed if it occurred in chronological order, the order in which the events actually happened?



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