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9th Grade Humanities

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### Growing Up

Getting through the tunnel was not so easy for Jerry, he had a lot of challenges during his adventure. **C** He had to think about what he was doing and not rush it. Jerry is an eleven year old boy who found a tunnel by playing with some older boys at the beach. The older boys already knew that there was a tunnel in the promontories. The tunnel was a distance of two minutes by swimming. It was probably Jerry's first time being outside for that long. He had a hard time holding his breath because he never really went outside before. **B, C** He had to figure out how he was going to go through the tunnel, but he also had to learn to hold his breath for about two minutes. Doris Lessing uses the reoccurring object of the tunnel in order to symbolize childhood, matureness, and challenges.

Childhood has stopped Jerry from experiencing new things. Kids always have someones hand to hold on to, to guide, or just to feel safe. **B, C** "At a hundred, he stared around him at the empty hillside, wondering if he should yell for help." Jerry was worried about what was happening and was scared. He did not know what was going on with boys, if they went someplace else or if they drowned. This signifies how Jerry is still a child because he was worried about what was happening instead of thinking that they could of pranked him. **A, B**

It was not so easy for him to realize that he had to practice instead of jumping into things. Jerry started to become mature. **C** "First he thought he must learn to control his breathing." He

now knows that, if steps are taken, he can accomplish anything in life. **B, C** Jerry realized that it is better to

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take time and do it the right way. **B** Every stroke he takes gets him one step closer to completing his

goal he has been practicing for. There is a better possibility to succeed in the challenge. **To** become mature he has to go through many challenges. **B, C**

People experience many challenges during the day. It can be as simple as solving a math problem but Jerry had a more difficult challenge. Getting through the tunnel. **C** “A hundred, a hundred and one... The water paled. Victory filled him. His lungs were beginning to hurt. A few more strokes and he would be out. He was counting wildly; he said hundred and fifteen and then a long time later a hundred and fifteen again.” Jerry had a hard time passing through the tunnel. He did struggle and he still did it after his nose was bleeding the night before he passed the tunnel. He was determined. Jerry was tired and could not do it anymore. He repeated the same number because he could not think straight, but never gave up, he knew he could make it out.

The tunnel is not just another motif that Jerry had to go through but it signifies childhood how much he developed as a person and how he passed through his goal. **B, C** Having these three ideas, childhood, mature and challenges are part of life. **B, C** Everyone goes through them especially challenges, everyday there has to be at least one challenge. **B, C** Many people do not realize that there is challenges in being in childhood also when maturing physically and mentally **B**. It was not easy for Jerry but he was patient and he never gave up. If it was not for the

matureness he got during his vacation he would not of been able to go through the tunnel. He  
might of had some challenging obstacles but at the end he achieved his goal. B

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