

**Stevie Smith**  
**Not waving but drowning**  
**More questions to challenge you!**

Worksheet by:  
Keith Tankard  
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. "Oh, no no no, it was too cold always  
(Still the dead one lay moaning)  
I was much too far out all my life  
And not waving but drowning."
  - Explain the triple "no no no". And why does the poet not use commas to separate the words? (4)
  - What is the purpose of parenthesis? Identify the part of the verse which is in parenthesis. (4)
  - Why has the poet chosen to use parenthesis in this verse? (4)
  
2. "I was much too far out all my life  
And not waving but drowning."

The concluding two lines are a repeat of similar lines in Stanza 1.

  - What differences does one see in the repetition? (4)
  - What new message does the poet put forward by these changes? (6)

**GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

3. Comment on the very simplistic style adopted in this poem. (10)
  
4. It has been stated elsewhere that death is perhaps Stevie Smith's most popular subject.
  - To what extent is death a theme in this poem? (4)
  
5. Wikipedia states that Stevie Smith's style "is unique in its combination of seemingly prosaic statements, playful meter, and deep sense of irony."
  - To what extent is this a correct opinion as regards this poem? (10)
  
6. This is a poem for several voices.
  - Identify the voices. (4)
  - What is the purpose of using this technique? (10)

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