

The prologue of the book is titled 'Consequence'.

Task 1: Discuss with an adult - What is a 'consequence'?



Task 2: Read and listen to Chapter one - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRHmT-bYotI>, listen up to 1.55.

Chapter One - Dying

I am drowning in this roaring silence. I am drowning. I'm going to die. I look up through the grey-white shimmer of the swimming-pool water. High, high above I can see where the quality of the light changes. The surface. But it is metres above me. It might as well be kilometres. The chlorine stings my eyes. My lungs are on fire. Just one breath. Just one. I have to take a breath, even though I know that I'll be breathing in water. But my lungs are burning and my blood is roaring and my whole body is screaming out for air. If I don't take a breath, I'll burst. If I do take a breath, I'll drown. Some choice. No choice. I close my eyes, praying hard. And kick, kick, kick. I open my eyes. The surface of the water seems even further away. I'm going to drown. A fact. A fact as clear, as real as the silence around me. Part of me - a tiny, tiny part of me - laughs. I am going to drown. After everything I've been through in the last few months, this is how I'm going to bow out. One thought rises up in my mind. One thought . . . Alex . . . I stop kicking. I have no energy left. I stop fighting. I'm so tired. I can feel my body begin to sink. Now for the hard part. Now for the easy part. Now for the hard part. Give in. Let go.

Just one breath . . .

Just one . . .

Just . . .

Task 3: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Who do you think we hear from?
2. Do you think the person is speaking or thinking? Why?
3. Where do you think the character is and why?