Pre-reading Discussion:

- **DARES**
  
  - Why do people dare each other to do things?
  - What role is played by excitement, danger and peer pressure?
  - What guidelines would you suggest for accepting dares?

- Have you ever been cliff diving? How about bridge jumping? Take a look at the following videos, and then write a response from the perspective of one of the jumpers. In your response, make sure to have a statement relating to each of the five senses (taste, touch, sound, smell, sight) – imagery.

  **Cliff Diving -- Technique**
  
  **Amateur Cliff Diver 1**
  **Amateur Cliff Divers 2**
  **Red Bull Cliff Diving Wolfgangsee 2008**

During reading:

- As we read, visualize yourself going through the experience described in the poem. Note what you see and feel in each stanza.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stanza</th>
<th>Sights</th>
<th>Feelings</th>
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Response Questions:

1. What is the danger of diving at Cooks Brook?

2. What did the divers fear would happen to them?
3. What does the narrator pray for just before a dive?

4. This poem includes hardly any punctuation or capitalization. Why might the author present the poem in this way?

5. Find examples of the following poetic devices in the poem: 1 simile, 2 metaphors, 3 instances of alliteration. To what two things does the poet compare the water?

6. What is the theme (main idea or lesson about life) of this poem? How might a theme be developed around the ideas in one or both of the following passages:

   it would be better to die
   skull smashed open in the water
   than it would be to climb
   backwards down to the beach

   you daringly defied demons
   who lived so terribly
   in the haunted hours of your sleep

7. Develop a character sketch of the narrator. Use the information in the poem as hints about the narrator’s personality. Remember, characters are developed through their actions and speech, their physical appearance, their thoughts and feelings, and other’s reactions to them.

8. Using the feelings and images from your journal entry, write a poem about carrying through with an intention, despite your fear. Mimic the simple narrative style and vivid images in this poem.