1. \*\*What happens in the story?\*\*

The narrator encounters Q, a seemingly perfect college friend, at a pool after ten years apart. They witness Q struggling with a work conflict, revealing his vulnerability. The narrator approaches Q, they reconnect, and rebuild their friendship over months and years. Their renewed bond becomes a source of mutual support, with both helping each other pursue dreams and weather life's challenges.

2. \*\*What is the theme?\*\*

The story explores the illusion of perfection and the value of authentic human connection through shared vulnerability. It examines how friendships can transcend time and distance when grounded in genuine understanding. The narrative suggests that true bonds form not through admiring others' success but through accepting their flaws and supporting each other through difficulties.

3. \*\*Does it propose other interpretations, in addition to the literal one?\*\*

\*\*Rating: 2\*\*

4. \*\*Which interpretation is it?\*\*

The pool setting could symbolize reflection and clarity—a place where superficial appearances dissolve. The story might be read as commentary on social media-era perfectionism, where Q represents curated personas that hide real struggles. However, these interpretations feel underdeveloped, as the narrative remains predominantly literal in its exploration of friendship and authenticity.