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

In the mid-1960s, a fifteen-year-old narrator and their gay father embark on a week-long cruise aboard the Devotion from San Francisco. The ship carries mostly gay couples, creating a sanctuary from societal prejudice. They dance, use an underwater treadmill, roller-skate, visit Angel Island with other passengers, and attend a final party. Throughout, the father attempts to instill "abstinence" while the narrator grapples with understanding their father's identity and mortality.

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

The story explores intergenerational understanding within LGBTQ families, examining how parents navigate protecting their children while being authentic. It addresses the tension between safety through concealment versus liberation through visibility, set against pre-AIDS 1960s gay culture. The narrative examines how children comprehend their parents' complex identities, mortality, and the inheritance of both trauma and resilience.

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

\*\*Rating: 5\*\*

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

The cruise represents a liminal space between closeted and open existence. The father's wigs symbolize performed identities and survival strategies. "Devotion" becomes ironic—the father preaches abstinence while seeking connection. The underwater treadmill suggests staying afloat while going nowhere. The story can be read as anticipating the AIDS crisis (the father's mysterious illness, emphasis on "contact"), making it a meditation on doomed paradise before catastrophe.