



## Learning Disability: Breaking the Surface (Book)

Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class Time

### Synopsis

Hailed as one of the world's greatest divers, four-time Olympian Greg Louganis spent most of his childhood struggling in school. Problems with stuttering and reading landed him in a "special class" that served only to intensify his feelings of inadequacy. Despite the fact that he was offered extra help and outside resources, Greg's teachers and parents never determined why he struggled so much; consequently, his dyslexia was not diagnosed until he entered college. There, the athletically gifted Greg immersed himself in the one activity that gained him acceptance – diving.

### Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class:

Title: Breaking the Surface (1996)

Author: Greg Louganis with Eric Marcus

Publisher: Random House • New York

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. What kinds of problems did Greg have in school?
2. Why did special education services do more harm than good for Greg?
3. What effects did Greg's parents have on his life?
4. Explain how early diagnosis and intervention would have helped Greg.
5. Greg notes that his learning disability became a "blessing in disguise." Why does he think this?



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