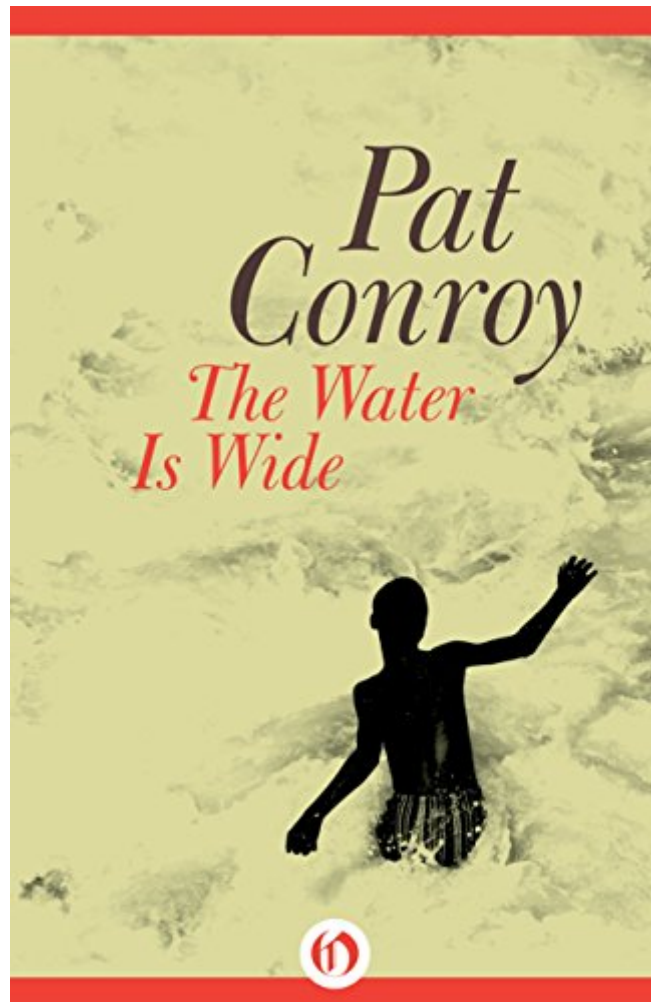


The book was found

# The Water Is Wide



## Synopsis

Pat Conroy's bestselling memoir recalls his dramatic experience teaching impoverished black students in South Carolina. Though the children of Yamacraw Island live less than two miles from the southern mainland, they can't name the US president or the ocean that surrounds them. Most can't read or write. Many of the students are the descendants of slaves, handicapped by poverty and isolation. When Pat Conroy arrives, an eager young teacher at the height of the civil rights movement, he finds a community still bound by the bitter effects of racism, but he is determined to broaden its members' horizons and give them a voice. In this poignant memoir, which Newsweek called "Miraculous . . . An experience of joy," the New York Times bestselling author of *The Prince of Tides* plumbs his experiences as a young teacher on an isolated South Carolina island to reveal the shocking inequalities of the American education system.

## Book Information

File Size: 2934 KB

Print Length: 338 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media (July 28, 2010)

Publication Date: August 31, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003XKN65U

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #14,511 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #18 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors #41 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Biographical #51 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors

## Customer Reviews

Pat Conroy's teaching experience on an impoverished South Carolina island in 1969 is reminiscent of Eliot Wigginton's situation in Rabun County, Georgia, during the same time period. (Read Wigginton's book, *Sometimes a Shining Moment: A Foxfire Experience*, if you can locate it.) In

each instance, a well-meaning and hopeful young teacher was dropped into what seemed to be an almost impossible educational situation -- an isolated community with seemingly backward students, nonexistent funds for decent materials, and goals and textbooks that didn't come close to meeting students' needs. In Conroy's case, the added strains of regional racism and administrative power games were too much to overcome, and he had to leave after serving a little more than a year there. And yet, *The Water is Wide* is a humorous book. We laugh at the white teacher's ignorance of the Gullah children's lifestyles, and we laugh at the children's reactions to the facts he tries to teach them. It's one "fish out of water" gag after another, so to speak. We applaud Conroy's dismissal of the educational chain of command and we cross our fingers that field trips to the mainland will come off without a hitch. We hope that the students will be better off than they ever were before his arrival; for this commentary on one year at one small elementary school stands for all the rest of us, across time, at all the other schools in the nation. The most disturbing fact here is that those of us working in public education today can easily recognize practices that we still have to deal with: superintendents as dictators; ineffective or intimidating school boards; administrators who rule from afar and never set foot in any classroom.

In Pat Conroy's first book, *The Water is Wide*, he writes of a universal theme: young idealistic man sets out to change the world and runs into a brick wall. But while this story has been told by other writers, nobody writes with the passion and emotion of Conroy. *The Water is Wide* is based on Conroy's experiences of teaching on Daufuskie Island in the late 1960's (thinly disguised as Wamacraw Island in the book). After his application was turned down for the Peace Corps, Conroy applied for a job teaching black children on this isolated sea island off the South Carolina coast. His 18 charges were from the upper elementary grades. What he discovered was an unbelievable shock. These 18 students did not know what country they lived in, the name of their president, or what ocean lapped their beach. Some couldn't read or write, recognize the alphabet, write their names or count to ten. Also, none of these children who lived surrounded by water could swim. Everything Conroy had learned about teaching was obsolete on Daufuskie, and he had to be flexible in his methodology in teaching his students to learn. Unfortunately, he hits one roadblock after another from supervisors, the superintendent, the school board, his only colleague and even the parents (who liked what Conroy was doing, but didn't want their children leaving the island for trips). He also runs into hypocrisy, inertia, prejudice, and jealousy. While Conroy is trying to teach his students, they are giving him an education as well.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Fruit Infused Water: 80 Vitamin Water Recipes for Weight Loss, Health and Detox Cleanse (Vitamin Water, Fruit Infused Water, Natural Herbal Remedies, Detox Diet, Liver Cleanse) The Water Is Wide Water Treatment WSO: Principles and Practices of Water Supply Operations Volume 1 (Water Supply Operations Series) Water Quality & Treatment: A Handbook on Drinking Water (Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Series) The Wonders of Water - How H2O Can Transform Your Life: Vitality, Detox, Weight Loss, Quality Water, Benefits (Water Health, Vitality, Weight Loss, Fruit Infused Book 1) Solar PV Powered UV Water Treatment: How to Solar Power UV Water Sterilizing Systems for Drinking Water Onsite Fruit Infused Water: 101 Fruit Infused Water Recipes for Weight Loss, Detox and Metabolism Boosting Vitamin Water Water is Life: Different Sources of Water and Ways to Conserve Them (For Early Science Learners): Nature Book for Kids - Earth Sciences (Children's Water Books) Open Wide! Fashion Dolls Exclusively International: Id & Price Guide to World-Wide Fashion Dolls Designing Wide Area Networks and Internetworks: A Practical Guide: A Practical Guide Wide Area Networks Wide-Area Data Network Performance Engineering Authentic And Traditional Pierogi Recipes: Discover The Simple Art of Making Pierogi at Home with A Wide Variety of Main and Desert Pierogi Recipes to Suit Every Taste. Setting Limits in the Classroom, 3rd Edition: A Complete Guide to Effective Classroom Management with a School-wide Discipline Plan International Air Band Radio Handbook: The Guide to World-Wide Air Traffic Control Wide-Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965 THE WIDE STREETS OF TOMORROW: Essays & Speeches on Barbados, the Caribbean, and the African Diaspora Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide-Open: A Free Press for a New Century (INALIENABLE RIGHTS)

[Dmca](#)