

this is water david foster wallace pdf

this is water david foster wallace pdf is a phrase commonly searched by readers interested in accessing the full text or transcript of David Foster Wallace's renowned commencement speech delivered at Kenyon College in 2005. This article explores the significance of "This Is Water," its themes, and the availability of the speech in PDF format. Additionally, it delves into the impact of Wallace's words on contemporary readers and the reasons why the speech continues to resonate strongly in academic and literary circles. For those seeking to understand the philosophical and practical insights offered by Wallace in "This Is Water," this guide provides a comprehensive overview while addressing common queries about obtaining the speech in a downloadable and readable PDF document. The following sections will cover the background of the speech, its central themes, how the PDF version is accessed, and related resources for further study.

- Background of "This Is Water"
- Key Themes and Messages
- Availability of the "This Is Water" David Foster Wallace PDF
- How to Use the PDF for Study and Reflection
- Related Works and Further Reading

Background of "This Is Water"

The speech known as "This Is Water" was delivered by David Foster Wallace as the commencement address for the graduating class of Kenyon College in 2005. It quickly gained widespread acclaim for its insightful commentary on everyday consciousness and the choices individuals make in perceiving the world around them. The address was later published as a standalone essay and has since been regarded as one of Wallace's most influential non-fiction works. Understanding the context of the speech is essential for appreciating its depth and the reasons it continues to be widely referenced and studied.

The Occasion and Audience

Wallace's speech was crafted specifically for college graduates entering the adult world with new responsibilities and challenges. The audience consisted of students poised to embark on diverse paths, making the message of awareness and intentionality particularly relevant. The speech emphasized the importance of choosing how to think and what to prioritize in daily life, a lesson tailored to young adults facing the complexity of modern existence.

David Foster Wallace's Style and Approach

The speech is characterized by Wallace's distinctive blend of humor, sincerity, and intellectual rigor. He employs accessible language to discuss profound philosophical ideas, making the speech relatable and impactful. The style reflects his broader literary approach, which often combines deep reflection with an acute awareness of the mundane aspects of life.

Key Themes and Messages

"This Is Water" centers on several core themes that explore human consciousness, choice, and empathy. These themes form the backbone of Wallace's message and contribute to the enduring relevance of the speech.

The Default Setting and Awareness

Wallace introduces the concept of the "default setting," describing the automatic, self-centered way in which most people view the world. He argues that true freedom involves the ability to consciously choose how to perceive and interpret everyday experiences rather than succumbing to this default mode. This awareness, according to Wallace, is a form of education beyond formal schooling.

Empathy and Understanding Others

Another significant theme is the call for empathy and recognizing the shared struggles of others. Wallace urges listeners to consider alternative perspectives and to approach daily interactions with kindness and patience, which can transform routine experiences into opportunities for connection and growth.

The Value of Conscious Living

The speech advocates for deliberate engagement with life, encouraging graduates to resist the autopilot mode and instead actively shape their thoughts and attitudes. This conscious living is presented as the antidote to the monotony and frustration often encountered in adult life.

Availability of the "This Is Water" David Foster Wallace PDF

For readers interested in accessing "This Is Water" in PDF format, several options exist depending on

the source and permissions. The speech has been widely circulated online and in print, making it accessible for educational and personal use.

Official and Authorized Versions

Authorized versions of the speech are often found in collections of Wallace's essays or as part of published books. These versions are professionally formatted and may include additional commentary or context. Purchasing or borrowing these books is one way to obtain a high-quality PDF legally.

Free Online PDFs and Transcripts

Numerous websites provide free transcripts or scanned copies of the speech in PDF form. While these are convenient, it is important to ensure the versions are accurate and respect copyright laws. Many educational institutions host these files for academic purposes, making them reliable sources for students and researchers.

Considerations When Downloading PDFs

- Verify the source to avoid unauthorized or altered copies.
- Check for completeness and formatting quality.
- Use PDFs as supplementary material alongside official publications.
- Respect copyright and usage rights when sharing or distributing the file.

How to Use the PDF for Study and Reflection

Accessing the "This Is Water" speech in PDF format enables deeper engagement with Wallace's ideas. The portability and ease of annotation make PDFs ideal for study and personal reflection.

Annotation and Note-Taking

One practical benefit of the PDF format is the ability to highlight and annotate key passages. Readers can mark important concepts, make personal notes, and track their evolving understanding of the speech's messages. This interactive approach enhances retention and critical thinking.

Incorporating into Academic Work

Students and educators often use the PDF in coursework related to literature, philosophy, or rhetoric. The speech's themes offer rich material for essays, discussions, and presentations. Having a downloadable version facilitates citation and reference management.

Group Discussions and Book Clubs

The accessible format allows groups to share the speech easily for collective reading and analysis. This can foster meaningful conversations about mindfulness, societal expectations, and the human condition, inspired by Wallace's insights.

Related Works and Further Reading

For those intrigued by "This Is Water," exploring additional writings by David Foster Wallace and related philosophical texts can deepen understanding and appreciation.

Other Essays by David Foster Wallace

Wallace's essays often explore similar themes of consciousness and modern life. Notable works include "Consider the Lobster," "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again," and "The Pale King." These essays complement the ideas presented in "This Is Water."

Philosophical Influences and Contemporary Thinkers

The speech draws on existential and phenomenological concepts that resonate with the works of philosophers such as Søren Kierkegaard, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and contemporary mindfulness scholars. Exploring these sources offers a broader context for Wallace's message.

Books on Mindfulness and Awareness

Readers seeking practical applications of the speech's themes may benefit from literature on mindfulness, meditation, and cognitive behavioral approaches. These resources provide tools for cultivating the conscious awareness advocated by Wallace.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'This is Water' by David Foster Wallace?

'This is Water' is a commencement speech delivered by David Foster Wallace in 2005 at Kenyon College, focusing on awareness, empathy, and the importance of conscious living.

Is there a free PDF available for 'This is Water' by David Foster Wallace?

Several websites offer free PDFs of 'This is Water,' but availability may vary. It's best to check official sources or authorized publishers to access a legal copy.

Where can I legally download the 'This is Water' PDF?

You can find legal versions of 'This is Water' on official websites, university archives, or purchase it through authorized platforms like Amazon or the publisher's site.

Why is 'This is Water' by David Foster Wallace so popular?

'This is Water' resonates widely because it addresses everyday awareness, the challenges of adult life, and the power of choice in perception, making it relevant to many readers.

Can I use 'This is Water' PDF for educational purposes?

Using 'This is Water' for educational purposes may fall under fair use, but it's important to verify copyright restrictions and seek permission when necessary.

What are the main themes in 'This is Water' by David Foster Wallace?

The main themes include mindfulness, the default setting of self-centeredness, the value of empathy, and the importance of consciously choosing how to think.

How long is the 'This is Water' speech PDF?

The 'This is Water' speech is relatively short, typically around 10-15 pages in PDF format depending on the layout.

Is 'This is Water' by David Foster Wallace available as an audiobook or PDF?

Yes, 'This is Water' is available in various formats, including PDF and audiobook, often found through libraries, bookstores, and online platforms.

What is the significance of the title 'This is Water'?

The title 'This is Water' refers to a metaphor about awareness and noticing the obvious elements of life that we often overlook, emphasizing conscious perception.

Can I share the 'This is Water' PDF with friends?

Sharing copyrighted PDFs without permission may be illegal. It's best to share links to authorized sources or encourage friends to obtain it through legal channels.

Additional Resources

1. *This Is Water: Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion, about Living a Compassionate Life*

This is the original commencement speech given by David Foster Wallace at Kenyon College in 2005. It explores themes of awareness, empathy, and the challenges of daily life, encouraging readers to consciously choose how they perceive the world. The speech has become an influential piece on mindfulness and the human condition.

2. *Consider the Lobster and Other Essays*

A collection of essays by David Foster Wallace that showcases his extraordinary ability to blend humor, insight, and deep philosophical inquiry. The essays cover a wide range of topics, from food festivals to the ethics of eating animals, offering readers a compelling look at contemporary culture and personal reflection.

3. *Infinite Jest*

David Foster Wallace's magnum opus, this sprawling novel delves into addiction, entertainment, and the search for meaning in modern America. Though complex and dense, it reflects many of the philosophical concerns found in "This Is Water," especially regarding consciousness and choice.

4. *The Pale King*

An unfinished novel by Wallace, published posthumously, that examines the lives of IRS agents and the monotony of bureaucracy. It expands on themes of attention and awareness, much like "This Is Water," and challenges readers to find significance in the mundane aspects of life.

5. *Every Love Story Is a Ghost Story: A Life of David Foster Wallace*

A biography by D.T. Max that provides an in-depth look at Wallace's life, struggles, and literary achievements. It offers context to his work, including "This Is Water," and explores the personal experiences that shaped his philosophy and writing style.

6. *How to Be an Existentialist: 10th Anniversary Edition* by Gary Cox

This accessible guide to existentialist philosophy complements the themes found in "This Is Water," particularly the emphasis on personal responsibility and conscious choice. It helps readers understand how to live authentically and embrace freedom in everyday life.

7. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values* by Robert M. Pirsig

A philosophical exploration of quality, values, and the meaning of life through a cross-country motorcycle trip. Like "This Is Water," it encourages readers to reconsider their perceptions and engage more thoughtfully with the world around them.

8. *The Art of Thinking Clearly* by Rolf Dobelli

This book delves into cognitive biases and thinking errors that affect decision-making. It aligns well with the messages in "This Is Water," helping readers become more aware of the mental habits that shape their experiences and choices.

9. *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl

A profound memoir and psychological exploration of finding purpose amid suffering. Frankl's insights resonate with the core message of "This Is Water," emphasizing the power of perspective and the conscious creation of meaning in life.

[This Is Water David Foster Wallace Pdf](#)

This Is Water David Foster Wallace Pdf

Related Articles

- [the use of knowledge in society pdf](#)
- [thursday night football scores history](#)
- [trauma and recovery pdf](#)

[Back to Home](#)