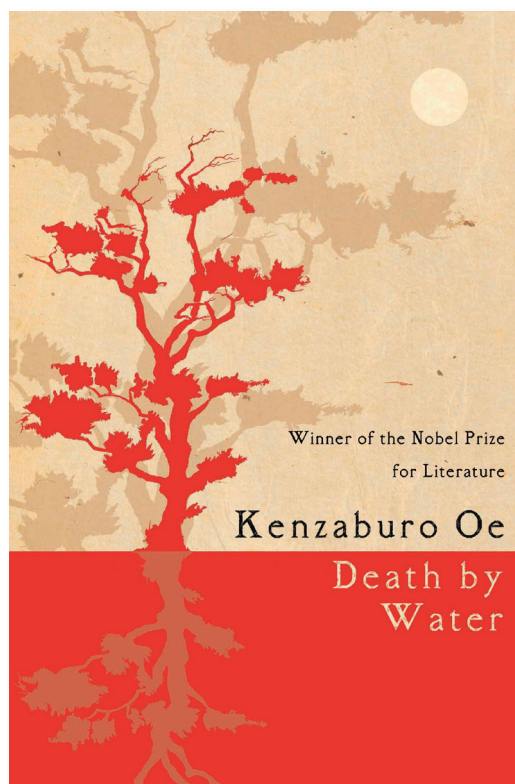


Reader's Guide



Other novels by Kenzaburō Ōe

A Personal Matter (1964)

The Silent Cry (1967)

Rouse Up O Young Men of the New Age! (1983)

The Changeling (2000)

Death by Water Kenzaburō Ōe

Translated by Deborah Boliver Boehm

Atlantic Books

www.themanbookerprize.com

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About the author	Kenzaburō Ōe is considered one of Japan's leading post-war writers, and has won almost every major international honour including the 1989 Prix Europalia and the 1994 Nobel Prize for Literature. He lives in Tokyo.
About the translator	Deborah Boliver Boehm lost herself in Zen as an exchange student travelling Japan in the 1960s, and recorded her experience in <i>A Zen Romance: Once a Woman's Adventure in a Monastery</i> . She has also written a collection of modern retellings of Japanese folklore in <i>Ghost of a Smile</i> . Along with her writing, Deborah has translated Akimitsu Takagi's <i>The Tattoo Murder Case</i> and <i>The Changeling</i> by Kenzaburō Ōe
About the book	For the first time in his long life, Nobel laureate Kogito Choko is suffering from writer's block. The book that he wishes to write would examine the turbulent relationship he had with his father, and the guilt he feels about being absent the night his father drowned in a storm-swollen river. But how to write about a man he never really knew? When his estranged sister unexpectedly calls, she offers Choko a remedy – she has in her possession an old and mysterious red trunk, the contents of which promise to unlock the many secrets of the man who disappeared from their lives decades before.
Discussion points	<p>How has Kogito's relationship with his father shaped him?</p> <p>By the end of the novel how has Kogito's view of his father changed?</p> <p>How do you think Kogito's sister feels about him?</p> <p>How does Kogito's reputation affect his perception of himself?</p> <p>Do you believe there is significance in the colour of the trunk?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Jhumpa Lahiri <i>In Other Words</i></p> <p>William Boyd <i>Sweet Caress: The Many Lives of Amory Clay</i></p> <p>Jung-Myung Lee <i>The Investigation</i></p>
Useful links	<p>http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/dec/18/death-by-water-kenzaburo-oe-review</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/04/books/review/kenzaburo-oes-death-by-water.html</p> <p>http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/kenzaburo-oe-death-by-water-a-pretty-peculiar-kind-of-writer-s-revenge-book-review-a6778481.html</p>