

Chapter 8 Reach for the Top

Part 1 – Santosh Yadav

Thinking About the Text

- I. Answer these questions in one or two sentences each.
 1. The 'holy man' was surprised because Santosh's grandmother told him that they did not want a son. They wanted a daughter. This was totally against a traditional society.
 2. Even as a young girl, Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable. Other girls in the village wore traditional Indian dress but Santosh preferred shorts.
 3. Santosh was sent to the village school due to the prevailing custom in the family.
 4. When Santosh turned sixteen, her parents wanted her to get married. Santosh threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get proper education. Therefore, she left home to study at a school in Delhi.
 5. Santosh's parents agreed to pay for her education as she informed them that she would earn money by working part time and pay her school fees. This shows that Santosh was determined to achieve her goal.
- II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).
 1. When Santosh was in Jaipur for her higher studies, she watched people from her room in Kasturba Hostel going up the Aravalli Hills and vanishing after a while. She was

curious. She went there and found certain mountaineers. They encouraged her to take up climbing. This was how she began climbing mountains.

2. During the Everest mission, Santosh helped a dying climber but she was unsuccessful in saving him. Another climber, Mohan Singh, would surely have died if Santosh hadn't shared her oxygen with him. These incidents show her concern for her team – mates.
3. Santosh was a fervent environmentalist. While on the Everest mission, she collected him, she collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.
4. Santosh said that the feeling at the summit of the Everest was indescribable and it took some moments to sink in. Hoisting the Indian flag was a spiritual moment for her and she felt proud as an Indian.
5. When Santosh Yadav first scaled Mt Everest, she became the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat. The second time, she became the only woman to have conquered the Everest twice.

III. Complete the following sentences.

1. From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to watch villagers going up the Aravalli hills and suddenly vanishing after a while.
2. When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because she had got herself enrolled at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering without his permission.

3. During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her climbing skills, physical fitness and mental strength while her concern for others and desire to work together with them endeared her to follow climbers.
- IV. Pick out words from the text that mean the same as the following words or expressions:
1. Assumed
 2. Rational
 3. Custom
 4. Urge
 5. Resistance