

**Chapter 8 Reach for the top**

**Part 2 Maria Sharapova**

**Before you Read (page 104)**

1. Match the following:

Something disarming	Something that makes you feel friendly, taking away your suspiciousness
At odds with	In contrast to; not agreeing with
Glamorous attire	Attractive and exciting clothes
In almost no time	Quickly, almost immediately
Poised beyond her years	More calm, confident and in control than people of her age usually are
Packed off	Sent off
Launched	Started
Heart wrenching	Causing strong feelings of sadness

2. (i) Maria was sent to the United States for her tennis training.  
(ii) Her mother could not go with her because of visa restrictions.  
(iii) Her hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing. She likes reading the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. She is also fond of sophisticated evening gowns, pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks.  
(iv) Apart from money, the motivation to become the number one in the world keeps her going.

## Thinking About the text (page – 107)

<b>Points of Comparison</b>	<b>Santosh Yadav</b>	<b>Maria Sharapova</b>
1. Their humble beginning	She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari district in Haryana, India.	She was born in the frozen plains of Siberia, Russia.
2. Their parents approach	Her parents disapproved of her going to Delhi for a better education. Eventually, they agreed to fulfill her dreams.	Her father worked as much as he could to keep her tennis training going and took her to the United States so that she could get the best training.
3. Their will power and strong desire to succeed	Her education was a struggle. She enrolled herself in a mountaineering institute and finally due to her determination scaled Mt Everest, not once but twice.	She never thought of quitting even in the most difficult circumstances. Her will to become number one kept her going.
4. Evidence of their mental toughness	In addition to her struggle to get a proper education and scaling the Mt Everest twice, she also saved the life of a fellow climber by sharing her oxygen with her.	She was young and pretty much lonely in the US as her mother could not accompany her. She was ill – treated by other athletes there. This didn't depress her but toughened her

		mentally.
5. Their Patriotism	When she unfurled the tricolour on the roof of the world, her feelings were indescribable. It was a spiritual moment for her. She felt proud as an India.	Maria says that though she has spent a long time in the US, she has a Russian citizenship and her blood is totally Russian. She wants to represent Russia in the Olympics.

### Thinking about Language

- I. Identify the two parts in the sentences below by underlining the part that gives us the information in brackets.
  1. Where other girls wore **traditional Indian dresses**, Santosh preferred **shorts**.
  2. She left home and **got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi**.
  3. She decided to fight the system **when the right moment arrived**.
  4. **Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday** when she was packed off to train in Unites States.
  
- II. Now rewrite the pairs of sentences given below as one sentence.
  1. Grandfather told me about the old days when all books were printed on paper.
  2. After finishing the book, perhaps you just throw it away.
  3. After giving the little girl an apple, he took the computer away.
  4. Having nothing makes you very determined.

5. I never thought of quitting as I knew what I wanted.