

Chapter

4

Prose

The Summit

Edmund Hillary



Warm Up

Adventures, expeditions and explorations are always exciting. Especially when they are real and if it is the first of its kind, it is even more thrilling. The only question that comes to one's mind is what makes one to take up such tasks that involve high risks. It is the spirit of formidable adventure and certain qualities which make them achieve such feats.



Tick the qualities that are required to achieve such a feat.

passion	reward	determination	physical fitness
fame	faith	courage	money
drive	vengeance	inspiration	self-satisfaction
vision	undying spirit	inner-urge	perseverance

This prose unit is a slightly adapted excerpt from 'The Ascent of Everest' by John Hunt.

Sir Edmund Hillary's own words, tells how the summit of the Everest was reached.

On May 28 there were six men at Camp 8 on the South Col: Edmund Hillary, Tenzing, George Lowe, Alfred Gregory, and the two Sherpas, Pemba and Ang Nyima. But Pemba was too ill to climb. The others, heavily laden, climbed that day to a height of 27,900 feet. Here, Hillary and Tenzing put up a little tent, and watched their three companions go down the ridge, back towards the South Col.

As the sun set, Hillary and Tenzing crawled into the tent, put on all their warm clothing,

and wriggled into their sleeping bags. Next morning, at 4 a.m. on May 29, they began to get ready for the climb.

1. We started up our cooker and drank large quantities of lemon juice and sugar, and followed this with our last tin of sardines on biscuits. I dragged our oxygen sets into the tent, cleaned the ice off them, and then rechecked and tested them.

2. I had removed my boots, which had become wet the day before, and they were now frozen solid. So I cooked them over the fierce flame of the Primus and managed to soften them up. Over our down clothing we donned our windproof and on to our hands we pulled three pairs of gloves – silk, woollen, and windproof.