

Chapter – 5

The Summit Within

Comprehension Check

Q1. Standing on Everest, the writer was

- (i) overjoyed.
- (ii) very sad.
- (iii) jubilant and sad. Choose the right item.

Answer. (iii) Standing on Everest, the writer was jubilant and sad.

Q2. The emotion that gripped him was one of

- (i) victory over hurdles.
- (ii) humility and a sense of smallness.
- (iii) greatness and self importance.
- (iv) joy of discovery.

Answer. (ii) The emotion that gripped him was one of humility and a sense of smallness.

Q3. “The summit of the mind” refers to

- (i) great intellectual achievements.
- (ii) the process of maturing mentally and spiritually.
- (iii) overcoming personal ambition for common welfare.
- (iv) living in the world of thought and imagination.
- (v) the triumph of mind over worldly pleasures for a noble cause.
- (vi) a fuller knowledge of oneself. Mark the item(s) not relevant.

Answer. (i), (iii), (iv) and (v) are not relevant.

Working With The Text

Q1. Answer the following questions.

(i) What are the three qualities that played a major role in the author’s climb?

(ii) Why is adventure, which is risky, also pleasurable?

(iii) What was it about Mount Everest that the author found irresistible?

(iv) One does not do it (climb a high peak) for fame alone. What does one do it for, really?

(v) “He becomes conscious in a special manner of his own smallness in this large universe.” This awareness defines an emotion mentioned in the first paragraph.

Which is the emotion?

(vi) What were the “symbols of reverence” left by members of the team on Everest?

(vii) What, according to the writer, did his experience as an Everest climber teach him?

Answer. (i) The three qualities that played a major role in the author's climb are endurance, persistence and will power.

(ii) Adventure is risky, but pleasurable. Though it presents great difficulties, man takes delight in overcoming such hurdles. Everest is the highest, the mightiest, and many attempts have been made to climb it. According to the author, when the summit is climbed, there is the feeling of "exhilaration, the joy of having done something, the sense of a battle fought and won-. There is a feeling of victory and of happiness. The physical conquest of a mountain is only one part of the achievement. It is followed by a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction. The experience is not merely physical, but it is emotional and spiritual also.

(iii) Everest drew him towards itself by its beauty, aloofness, might, ruggedness and the difficulties encountered on the way. That is why he found it irresistible.

(iv) Climbing a peak means endurance, persistence and will power. The demonstration of these physical qualities is exhilarating for a climber. The experience, apart from being merely physical, is also emotional and spiritual. It surely presents great difficulties. However, man takes delight in overcoming obstacles. Therefore, it is not for fame alone that one climbs a mountain. It is actually for the feelings of exhilaration and satisfaction.

(v) "He becomes conscious in a special manner of his own smallness in this large universe." This awareness defines the emotion of humility.

(vi) On Everest, a picture of Guru Nanak was left by the author; a picture of Goddess Durga was left by Rawat; a relic of the Buddha was left by Phu Dorji. Apart from these 'symbols of reverence' there was also the cross that had been buried by Edmund Hillary.

(vii) According to the writer, his experience as an Everest climber provided him with the inspiration to face life's ordeals determinedly. It taught him that the conquest of the internal summit is as worthwhile as climbing the mountain. He also concluded that perhaps the internal summits are higher than Everest.

Q2. Write a sentence against each of the following statements. Your sentence should explain the statement. You can pick out sentences from the text and

rewrite them. The first one has been done for you. (i) The experience changes you completely. One who has been to the mountains is never the same again. (ii) Man takes delight in overcoming obstacles. _____ (iii) Mountains are nature at its best. _____ (iv) The going was difficult but the after-effects were satisfying. _____ (v) The physical conquest of a mountain is really a spiritual experience. _____

Answer. (i) The experience changes you completely. One who has been to the mountains is never the same again.

(ii) Man takes delight in overcoming obstacles. The demonstration of endurance, persistence and will power in overcoming great difficulties is delightful.

(iii) Mountains are nature at its best. The beauty and majesty of the mountains pose a great challenge for a climber.

(iv) The going was difficult but the after-effects were satisfying. Climbing the mountains was difficult, but reaching the summit was a feeling of satisfaction and deep fulfillment.

(v) The physical conquest of a mountain is really a spiritual experience. The act of making a physical conquest of the mountain is actually a conquest of the mountain within, which gives a deep satisfaction and is spiritual.

Working With The Language

Q1. Fill in the blanks in the following dialogues choosing suitable phrases from those given in the box. At hand At once At all At a low ebb At first sight

(i) Teacher: You were away from school without permission. Go to the principal _____ and submit your explanation. Pupil: Yes, Madam. But would you help me write it first?

(ii) Arun: Are you unwell? Ila: No, not _____. Why do you ask? Arun: If you were unwell, I would send you to my uncle. He is a doctor.

(iii) Mary: Almost every Indian film has an episode of love _____. David: Is that what makes them so popular in foreign countries?

(iv) Asif: You look depressed. Why are your spirits _____ today? (Use such in the phrase) Ashok: I have to write ten sentences using words that I never heard before.

(v) Shieba: Your big moment is close _____. Jyoti: How should I welcome it?

Answer. (i) Teacher: You were away from school without permission. Go to the principal at once and submit your explanation. Pupil: Yes, Madam. But would you help me write it first?

(ii) Arum: Are you unwell? Ila: No, not at all. Why do you ask? Arum: If you were unwell, I would send you to my uncle. He is a doctor.

(iii) Mary: Almost every Indian film has an episode of love at first sight. David: Is that what makes them so popular in foreign countries?

(iv) Asif: You look depressed. Why are your spirits at such a low ebb today? (Use such in the phrase) Ashok: I have to write ten sentences using words that I never heard before. (v) Shieba: Your big moment is close at hand. Jyoti: How should I welcome it? Shieba: Get up and receive the trophy.

Q2. Write the noun forms of the following words adding -ance or -ence to each. (i) endure _____ (ii) persist _____ (iii) signify _____ (iv) confide _____ (v) maintain _____ (vi) abhor _____

Answer. (i) endure : endurance (ii) persist : persistence (iii) signify: significance (iv) confide: confidence (v) maintain: maintenance (vi) abhor: abhorrence

Q3. (i) Match words under A with their meanings under B.

A	B
remote	difficult to overcome
means	most prominent
dominant	be overcome/overpowered
formidable	method(s)
overwhelmed	far away from

(ii) Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with appropriate words from under A. (a) There were _____ obstacles on the way, but we reached our destination safely. (b) We have no _____ of finding out what happened there. (c) Why he lives in a house _____ from any town or village is more than I can tell. (d) _____ by gratitude, we bowed to the speaker for his valuable advice. (e) The old castle stands in a _____ position above the sleepy town.

Answer. (i) remote = far away from means = method(s) dominant = most prominent formidable = difficult to overcome overwhelmed = be overcome/overpowered

(ii) (a) There were formidable obstacles on the way. but we reached our destination safely.

(b) We have no means of finding out what happened there.

(c) Why he lives in a house remote from any town or village is more than I can tell.

(d) Overwhelmed by gratitude, we bowed to the speaker for his valuable advice.

(e) The old castle stands in a dominant position above the sleepy town.

Speaking And Writing

Q1. Write a composition describing a visit to the hills, or any place which you found beautiful and inspiring. Before writing, work in small groups. Discuss the points given below and decide if you want to use some of these points in your composition.

- **Consider this sentence Mountains are a means of communion with God.**
- **Think of the act of worship or prayer. You believe yourself to be in the presence of the divine power. In a way, you are in communion with that power.**
- **Imagine the climber on top of the summit—the height attained; limitless sky above; the climber’s last ounce of energy spent; feelings of gratitude, humility and peace.**
- **The majesty of the mountains does bring you close to nature and the spirit and joy that lives there, if you have the ability to feel it.**

Some composition may be read aloud to the entire class afterwards.

Answer. Do Attempt it.

The School Boy - (Working with the Poem)

Question 1: Find three or four words/phrases in stanza 1 that reflect the child’s happiness and joy.

Answer: The words/phrases that reflect the child’s happiness are the song of birds and the skylark, and the sound of hunter’s horn.

Question 2: In stanza 2, the mood changes. Which words/phrases reflect the changed mood?

Answer: The words/phrases reflecting the child’s mood are:

- (a) drives all joy away
- (b) cruel eye outworn (of the Teacher)
- (c) sighing and dismay.

Question 3: 'A cruel eye outworn (stanza 2)' refers to

- (i) the classroom which is shabby/noisy**
- (ii) the lessons which are difficult/uninteresting**
- (iii) The dull/uninspiring life at school with lots of work and no play.**

Mark the answer that you consider right.

Answer: (iii) The dull/uninspiring life at school with lots of work and no play.

Question 4: "Nor sit in learning's bower worn thro' with the dreary shower"

Which of the following is a close paraphrase of the lines above?

- (i) Nor can I sit in a roofless classroom when it is raining.**
- (ii) Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.**
- (iii) Nor can I sit in the school garden for fear of getting wet in the rain.**

Answer: (ii) Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.