

CHAPTER – 1

THE SUMMIT WITHIN

❖ Comprehension check Pg-80

Question 1:

Standing on Everest, the writer was

- (i) Overjoyed
 - (ii) Very sad
 - (iii) Jubilant and sad
- Choose the right item.

Answer:

- (iii) Jubilant and sad

Explanation – According to Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia, by climbing the summit of Everest, one is overwhelmed by a deep sense of joy and thankfulness. However, at the same time, he also experienced a tinge of sadness because of the thought that there was nothing up beyond that point and ultimately one had to land down in the real world.

Question 2:

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) the joy of discovery.

Choose the right item.

Answer:

(ii) humility and a sense of smallness.

Explanation – He was gripped by consciousness from within in a special manner making him aware of his smallness in the large universe.

Question 3:

“The summit of the mind” refers to

- (i) Great intellectual achievements.
- (ii) the process of maturing mentally and spiritually.
- (iii) Overcoming personal ambition for the 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) Great intellectual achievements.
- (iii) Overcoming personal ambition for the common welfare.
- (iv) Living in the world of thought and imagination.
- (v) the triumph of mind over worldly pleasures for a noble cause.

Explanation – The summit of the mind as explained by the narrator does not explain any of the definitions given by (i), (iii), (iv) and (v).

❖ Working with the text

Question 1 A:

What are the three qualities that played a major role in the author's climb?

Answer:

The obstacles in climbing a mountain are not only restricted to physical challenges accompanied by exhaustion. Apart from this, according to the narrator, the climb to the summit requires the three qualities of endurance, persistence, and willpower to succeed and move forward.

Question 1 B.

Why is an adventure, which is risky, also pleasurable?

Answer:

Everest is one of the highest, mightiest mountains which has defied many previous attempts. Posing great difficulties, it takes the last ounce of one's energy according to the narrator Major H.P.S Ahluwalia. A brutal struggle with rock and ice, once taken up, cannot be given up halfway even when one's life is at stake. The passage back is as difficult as the passage onwards.

Eventually, when the summit is climbed, there comes the exhilaration, the joy of having done something, the sense of a battle fought and won. This very feeling of victory coupled with happiness makes the risky adventure, a pleasurable one.

Question 1 C.

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

Answer:

The personal experience shared by Major H.P.S Ahluwalia regarding his fondness of mountains is a testimony to his irresistible nature.

From the days of his childhood, he has always been attracted towards mountains and often found it miserable to stay away from them in plains. He felt that Mountains were nature at its best and their beauty and majesty posed a great challenge. In addition to this, he also believed in the divine connect with God that one experiences on reaching the top.

Everest is the highest and the mightiest peaks among all deeply fascinated the narrator. The mere glimpse of the peak drove him into another world wherein he could experience the mystical change within him. The beauty, aloofness, ruggedness and the difficulties encountered on the way were amongst the most difficult aspects of Everest that narrator found difficult to resist.

Question 1 D:

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

Answer:

According to the narrator, fame is not the only driving force when it comes to climbing a high peak. The physical conquest of a mountain is only one part of the achievement. The other part gives the climber a sense of fulfillment, a satisfaction of a deep urge to rise above one's surroundings. The eternal love of adventure is not merely physical but emotional and spiritual in nature. Above all, it changes the individual altogether thereby bringing within him a deeper understanding of himself.

Question 1 E:

“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?

Answer:

The emotion that the narrator mentions in regard to the line mentioned above is that of humility.

On climbing the summit, he experiences a unique sense of smallness in the entire universe which arouses within him a sense of humility.

Question 1 F:

What were the 'symbols of reverence' left by members of the team on Everest?

Answer:

The symbols of reverence left by different members of the team on Everest included a picture of Goddess Durga left by Rawat, a relic of Buddha left by Phu Dorji, across buried under a cairn by Edmund Hillary and a picture of Guru Nanak left by Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia himself.

Question 1 G:

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

Answer:

According to the writer, the experience of climbing the summit changes one completely. It helps in experiencing the summit within oneself. One needs to climb that summit in order to get a fuller knowledge of oneself. Therefore, the physical act of climbing the summit of a mountain is akin to the act of climbing the mountain within.

As an Everest climber, the writer feels that the experience provided him with the inspiration and courage to face the ordeals of life in a resolute manner. The conquest of the Everest as well as the inner summit was in all a worthwhile experience for the writer.

Question 2:

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:

(ii) A man takes delight in overcoming obstacles.

The demonstration of the physical qualities of endurance, persistence, and willpower are the fundamental key to encounter obstacles.

(iii) Mountains are nature at its best.

The beauty and majesty and the ruggedness and difficulties posed by the mountains are the aspects that drive one towards them.

(iv) The going was difficult but the after-effects were satisfying.

Climbing the summit poses many obstacles but the after-effects of the achievement give a sense of fulfillment.

(v) The physical conquest of a mountain is really a spiritual experience.

The physical act of climbing to the summit of a mountain outside is akin to the act of climbing the mountain within, which is a spiritual as well as emotional experience.

❖ Working with Language

Question 1:

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 are 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?

Sheba: Get up and receive the trophy.

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) Arun: Are you unwell?

Ila: No, not at all. Why do you ask?

Arun: If you are 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 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?

Sheba: Get up and receive the trophy.

Question 2:

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) endurance

Meaning – The lasting capacity of a thing or a person in a particular situation

(ii) persistence

Meaning – The continuous existence of something

(iii) significance

Meaning – The importance of something

(iv) confidence

Meaning – The existence of faith in something or someone (including oneself)

(v) maintenance

Meaning – The act of preserving something

(vi) abhorrence

Meaning – The feeling of hatred for something

Question 3 A:

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

Answer:

Empty:

Question 3 B:

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:

(a) There were formidable obstacles along 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.

NOTE – Students can use the above-given words to form meaningful sentences. The meanings of the same have been explained in a few words in the first part (i) of this question.

❖ Speaking and Writing

Question 1:

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; the 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 components may be read aloud to the entire class afterward.

Answer:

A Visit to the Paradise on Earth

Kashmir, situated in the northernmost region of the Indian Subcontinent is considered to be among the most beautiful and magnificent places in the world. Covered with dense forests and lush green valleys, it is truly nature at its best.

Apart from its scenic beauty and picturesque state, it is a hub for diverse adventurous activities and a unique center of art and culture.

Right from the spectacular view of the Kashmir Valley to the stays provided in the houseboats in the Dal Lake, the panoramic view is genuinely breathtaking.

NOTE – The given composition is just an example. Students are supposed to share their own experiences in the section on writing skills.

❖ The School Boy - Working with the poem

Question 1:

Find three or four words/phrases stanza 1 that reflect the child's happiness and joy.

Answer:

The phrases (including words) that reflect the child's happiness and joy are as follows:

- i. "love to rise in a summer morn"
- ii. "When the birds sing on every tree"
- iii. "And the skylarks sing with me"
- iv. "O! what sweet company

Question 2:

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

Answer:

In stanza 2, the mood changes from happiness to sadness. Following phrases

(including words) reflect the changed mood:

- “O! it drives all joy away”
- “Under a cruel eye outworn”
- “The little ones spend the day, In 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.

Explanation – The schoolboy mentioned in the poem aspires to set free and enjoy the summer mornings away from the burdens of school life. The phrase “A cruel eye outworn” reflects on the boring atmosphere that surrounds the school life far away from the bright sunshine of the summer mornings.

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.

Explanation – The child finds the school a very dull and boring place. He constantly desires to break free from the enclosed atmosphere of school life and enjoy the summer mornings. Using the above phrase, he expresses his deep unhappiness and the inability to learn inspite of constant explanations and simplifications given by his teachers.