

## Chapter 8 Reach for the Top

### THINK ABOUT THE TEXT

I. Answer these questions in one or two sentences each.

(The paragraph numbers within brackets provide clues to the answers.)

1. Why was the 'holy man' who gave Santosh's mother his blessings surprised?  
 A. The part of India where Santosh was born has a negative bias against girl child. So the holy man was surprised because Santosh's grandmother wished for a girl child.
2. Give an example to show that even as a young girl Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable.  
 A. Santosh liked to wear shorts instead of traditional dress prevalent in her village. This shows her rebellious attitude and shows that since early age she had a mind of her own.
3. Why was Santosh sent to the local school?  
 A. It is customary to send a girl child to local school because the aim is to make them literate enough to enable them to read and write. The purpose is not education but literacy.
4. When did she leave home for Delhi, and why?  
 A. When she turned 16 she wanted to pursue higher education. So she left for Delhi.
5. Why did Santosh's parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought into light by this incident?  
 A. Santosh threatened to work part time to manage her school fees. On hearing this, her parents agreed to pay for her schooling in Delhi. This incident shows her level of determination towards her goal.

II.1. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?

A. While she was staying at her hostel in Jaipur, she used to see people climbing the Arawali hills. When her curiosity compelled her to go for looking for those people she found them to be mountaineers. On her request, they agreed to let her join them in mountain climbing. This is how, her journey to become a great mountaineer began.

2. What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh's concern for her team-mates?  
 A. During her Everest expedition she tried to save her fellow climber's lives. She shared her oxygen cylinder with her team mates. Although one of her team mates could not be saved but another one could be saved because of Santosh's help.
3. What shows her concern for the environment?  
 A. While returning from the Everest, she brought back 500 kgs of rubbish from there. Many mountaineers go for conquering the Everest every year. They leave lots of garbage in their

trail. This is threatening the ecology of the Everest. Santosh's act of bringing back some garbage shows her concern for the environment.

4. How does she describe her feelings at the summit of the Everest?
- A. She describes that she was overawed by the experience of reaching at the top of the world. The feeling took its own time to sink in. Then she unfurled the tricolour on the roof of the world. This was a spiritual experience for her.
5. Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest. What were the reasons for this?
- A. When she scaled the Everest for the first time, she became the youngest woman to reach there. When she went there next time, she became the only woman to achieve the feat twice.

### III. Complete the following statements.

1. From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to see the villagers going up the hill and suddenly vanishing after a while.
2. When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because she was giving directly for training and not home which she should have done.
3. During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her climbing skills while physical fitness and mental strength while working together endeared her to fellow climbers.

### IV. Pick out words from the text that mean the same as the following words or expressions. (Look in the paragraphs indicated.)

1. took to be true without proof (1): (blessing)
2. based on reason; sensible; reasonable (2): (rational)
3. the usual way of doing things (3): (custom)
4. a strong desire arising from within (5): (urge)
5. the power to endure, without falling ill (7): (resistance / endurance)

### Before You Read

- |                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 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             |   |  |

### Santosh Yadav

Santosh's parents were affluent  
landowners who could afford ...

Wishing always to study 'a bit more', and with her father slowly getting used to her urge

...

The culmination of her hard work and sincerity came in 1942 ...

Then I unfurled the Indian tricolour and held it    indescribable I felt proud as an Indian

...

## II. **Maria Sharapova**

My father was working as much as he could to keep ....

The latter (her mother) was compelled to stay back in Siberia ....[My father working as much either.]

Equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental...

Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough.

And that something in her lifted her on Monday, 22 August 2005 to the world number one position in women's tennis.

My blood is totally Russian. I will play the Olympics for Russia if they want me.