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Class 9 English (Beehive) Notes

REACH FOR THE TOP

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

8. Reach for the Top-I

Santosh Yadav

Value points

- Santosh Yadav is the only woman in the world to scale Mt. Everest twice.
- She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari district in Haryana, in a traditional conservative family.
- Her parents were traditional, prosperous landlords and she was the youngest and the only sister of five brothers.
- Contrary to her name 'Santosh' was not satisfied with the traditional way of life.
- To start with, she did not wear traditional dresses in her childhood and preferred shorts. She studied in the village school.
- She was pressurised by her parents as she turned sixteen, to get married. Usually in her village girls got married at this age. But Santosh threatened her parents to never marry if she did not get a proper education.
- She left home and got herself enrolled in a Delhi school. When her parents refused to pay for her education, she politely informed them that she would earn working part time to pat her fee. Then her parents agreed to pay for her education.
- After passing high school exam, she joined Maharani College in Jaipur, her room in Kasturba Hostel faced the Aravalli Hills.
- From the room, she used to watch people climbing hills then disappearing. Curious to find the reason, one day she went these and found only a few mountaineers.
- She asked if she could join them. They not only agreed but motivated her to take to climbing.
- She started saving money and enrolled herself in a course at permission and later apologised for it.
- Instead of going back home, she went straight for the training. She went on an expedition every year after that.

- In just four years her climbling skills matured and she developed remarkable resistance to cold and the attitude.
- As a result of her hard work, sincerity, Iron will, physical endurance and amazing mental toughness, she conqured Mt. Everst in 1992.
- Her seniors were impressed by her climbing skills, physical fitness and mental strength, caring & cooperative nature.
- During the 1992 everest Mission she saved the life of a fellow climber by sharing her oxygen but despite the special care by her she could not save another dying climber at the south col.
- She scaled Everest for the second time within 12 months of her first success, being a member of Indo-Napalese Women's expedition.
- She set a record as the only and youngest woman to have scaled the Everest twice.
- The Indian government conferred on her the 'Padmashri', one of the nation's top honours, in recognition of her achievements.
- She not only unfurled the Indian tricolor on the Everest but collected and brought down 500 kgs. of garbages from the Himalayas, being a true environmentalist.

ACTIVITY

Match the names with their feat

1. First everest climber to reach the Summit - Bachendri Pal
2. The First Indian to climb Mt. Everest - Malavattr Poorna
3. Three times climber of Mt. Everest - Sdmund Hillary and and Tenzing Norgay
4. The First Indian woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. - Avtar Singh Cheema
5. The youngest Indian to climb mount Everest - Saurabh Singh Shekhawat

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

1. But to everyone's surprise, the unborn child's grandmother, who was standing close by, told him that they did not want a son. The holy man' was also surprised.

   Questions

   a) Name the Lesson.

   b) Why was everyone surprised?

   c) What blessings did the holy man give earlier?

   d) Find the synonym of 'near by' from the above lines.

2. She began living life on her own terms from the start, where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts.

   Questions

   a) Who is 'she' here?

   b) How was she different from other village girls?

   c) What does it show about her?

   d) 'On her own terms' here means.

3. A marriage as early as that was the last thing on her mind. She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get a proper education.

   Questions

   a) What did Santosh's parents want?

   b) What was her response to her parents wish?

   c) How did she try to convince her parents for education?

   d) Find a phrase from the above lines which means the same as "the least important".

4. One day I decided to check it out myself I found nobody except a few mountaineers. I asked If i could join them.

   Questions

   a) Who is 'I' in these lines?

   b) What did the speaker want to check?

   c) Whom did the speaker join?

   d) Find the phrase from the above lines that means the same as "find out the truth."

5. Then I unfurled the Indian tricolor and held it aloft on the roof of the world, The feeling is indescribable.

Questions

a) Who is the speaker here?

b) What does the 'roof of the world' refer to?

c) How did the speaker show her patriotism?

d) Find the word from the above lines that means the same as 'cannot be explained.'

Short Questions

Q.1 What motivated Santosh to climb mountains? Why did Santosh take to climbing?

Q.2 How did Santosh convince her parents about her wish to study "a bit more"?

Q. 3 How did Santosh help her fellow climbers during the 1992 Everest Mission?

Q. 4 "……..then I unfurled the Indian Tricolor and held it alot on the roof of the world." How did Santosh feel when she was at the summit of the Everest?

Q. 5 Santosh's concern for environment is no less. How can you say that?

Q. 6 Can you list two reasons for which Santosh Yadav got into the record books twice?

Q. 7 In what ways Santosh did not like the traditional life in her village?

Q. 8 What do you know about the early life of Santosh?

Long Question:

Q.1 "From the very beginning I was quite determined that If I choose a correct and rational path, the others around me had to change not me" what traits and values you admire in her that made her a successful woman despite from a orthodox, conservative, traditional society.

Q.2 What skills and qualities did Santosh develop after she took up climaxing as a career?

Q.3 How did Santosh come to be a member of an Indo Nepalese women's Expedition?

Q.4 How did Santosh get inspiration to become a moutaineer?

8. Reach for the Top-II

Maria Sharapova

Value points

- Maria Sharapova the fashionable, glamorous Russian girl reached to the world's number one position in women's tennis on 22nd August 2005.
- Born to Yuri and Yelena Sharapova in Siberia, she was sent to Florida. USA with father for tennis-training at the age of nine.
- Due to visa-restictions mother could not accompany them. But Maria learnt an important lesson in life- that tennis excellence would only come at a price.
- Father also worked extra hours to pay for her tennis training and could not stay with her. She had to tolerate this separation from mother for two years.
- Being so young, just nine, she went to bed at 8 p.m. The other tennis players used to come at 11p.m. and after waking her up, asked her to clean the room.
- But instead of being depressed, she was becoming more determined and mentally tough to achieve her target. Instead of quitting she steadfastly pursued her dream.
- Four years' hard work and strong determination and sacrifice that she made, resulted in bagging women's singles tennis trophy in 2004 and in 2005 world's no.1 position.
- The key to her success is being competitive, hard working and no place for sentiments.
- Though trained in US, she is proud to be a Russian and ready to play for Russia if offered.
- Her hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing. She loves to read novels of Arthur Canan Doyle. She loves sophisticated evening gowns and eating pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks.
- Her Hardwork, strong determination, mental toughness and sacrifices have earned her not only success but ample money also.
- She admits that money was a motivation for her but the most important thing was to become number one in the world.

ACTIVITY

Name the sportsperson and the game they are associated with-Saina Nehwal, Maria Sharapova, Harbhajan Singh, Sania Mirza, Virat Kohli, Sushil Kumar.








COMPREHENSION PASSAGE

1. Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States.

   Questions

   a) How old Maria was when she left her country?
   b) Which country did Maria leave for ?
   c) How did she travel?
   d) Find a phrase from the above lines that means the same as "to send" some away".

2. The nine year old girl had already learnt an important lesson in life-that tennis excellence would only come at a price.

   Questions

   a) Who is the 'girl' here?
   b) How did is the girl?
   c) What price did she pay for tennis training?
   d) Give the adjective form of 'excellence'.

3. That toughness runs through Maria even today. It was the key to her bagging the women's singles crown at Wimbledon in 2004 and to her meteoric rise to the world number one spot the following year.

   Questions

   a) What quality helped Maria in all her achievements?
   b) What was Maria' first big achievement?
   c) When did she rise to world number one Position?
   d) Find a word from the above passage which means the same as "sudden".

Short Questions:

Q.1 Why did Maria have to stay away from her mother? What were Maria's feelings during this time?

Q.2 What were the difficulties/hardships that Maria faced in the hostel?

Q. 3 Describe the grit and determination with which Maria faced all the humiliations while training for tennis.

Or

What made Maria carry on inspite of the tough conditions that she faced?

Q. 4 What is Maria's Mantra for success?

Q. 5 What, other than tennis, are Maria's hobbies?

Q. 6 What is the role of Maria's parents in her success?

Long Questions

Q.1 Compare and contrast Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova in items of their birth, the families they were born into, their education, parental support, training, struggles and their achievements.

Q. 2 Describe Maria's journey to the pinnacle in women's tennis.