

**Littera Public school**

**English class – 8**

**Chapter – 5**

**The Summit Within**

**Learning Outcomes :-**

- Read texts with comprehension locate details and grasp the main idea
- Infer the meaning of unfamiliar words by reading the main context
- Engage in meaningful discussions with teacher/ peers on a range of topics

**About the author :-** Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia was an Indian mountaineer, author, social worker and retired Indian Army officer. During his career he made contributions in the fields of adventure, sports, environment, disability and social work. He is one of six Indian men and the twenty first man in the world to climb Mount Everest.

**Hard words and their meanings :-**

1. Summit (N)- apex
2. Emotion (N)-passion भावना , जज्बा
3. Surge (v) - rise high
4. Dominant (adj)- प्रबल
5. Humility (N)- modesty
6. Jubilant (adj )- rejoicing
7. Tinge (N) -झलक
8. Formidable (adj ) dreadful , fearful डरावना , दहला देने वाला
9. Get down (v) come down

- 10.Obstacles (N)- रुकावट
- 11.Exhilarate (v)- very exciting
- 12.Brutal (adj)- cruel
- 13.Defied (v)- frustrated , resisted
- 14.Firm in (v)- make yourself firm
- 15.Grim (N)- भयानक , कठोर
- 16.Ennoble (v) -elevate उदात्त बनाना

17.Akin (adj)- kindred सदृश

18. Resolutely (adv)- firmly दृढता से

**Summary of the story :-** In the year 1965, the expedition to Mount Everest was the first successful expedition. Edmund Hillary and Major Ahluwalia were also a part of this expedition. This chapter is a reminisce of this expedition by Major Ahluwalia. He says that standing on the peak of Mount Everest he felt humbled and joyful though he was physically tired. He felt that this joy will remain with him all his life and was thus thankful to God. Also, he was sad somewhere. Though he was not sure about the reason, he thought that it was because now there is no higher peak to climb.

In spite of climbing this summit, he thinks that there is also another summit that we need to climb. It is the summit of our minds. As per his observation, he said that a person requires three qualities to climb any summit. Endurance, persistence, and will power be the three qualities which a person needs to overcome the obstacles of his life. Every person thus enjoys overcoming the obstacles. On the question of why he chose to climb the Everest, he says that he loves the mountains. As Mount Everest is the highest of them all and it is a great struggle against rock and ice to

climb it, he finds it very challenging. He says that he has a strong urge to face the challenges and overcome the obstacles. Also, to him, the joy of climbing Mount Everest is too much as only a few can manage to do this. He adds here that climbing Everest is not just a physical achievement but also is an emotional and spiritual experience. This success has brought him fame and also fulfillment.

He further says that this summit also is a lesson of companionship. Two people share the same rope while climbing the mountain. One climber needs to hold the rope firmly while the other one cuts the steps in the hard ice. The second one then belays and then the first one inches his way up. It is very difficult for a single man to think of climbing a mountain. They need physical as well as the emotional support of their partners.

Ahluwalia further states that after reaching the peak of Everest, they all bowed down to God. He left a picture of Guru Nanak, Rawat left a picture of Goddess Durga, Phu Dorji left a relic of Lord Buddha and Edmund Hillary buried a Cross under the snow at the Everest.

He also says that every person has within him his own mountain peak. Climbing this inner peak is also important as this climb will also change him. He also adds that perhaps the internal summit is even higher than the Everest.

#### **Conclusion of The Summit Within**

**We can overcome any obstacle or situation in life if we have endurance, persistence, and will power.**

