

Answer the following questions.

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

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

2) Why is adventure, which is risky, also pleasurable?

Ans) Mountain climbing is a great adventure but is also risky. It is a great challenge and a doing challenging job is in itself pleasurable. The author gives the example of the mighty Mount Everest and reaching its summit is an achievement in itself. Hence, the experience is not merely physical. It is indeed both emotional and spiritual. It gives immense joy to the doers.

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

Ans) The author found it irresistible due to its beauty, ruggedness and the obstacles that he encountered while climbing its summit. Mount Everest attracted the author because it is the highest, the mightiest and has defied many previous attempts. When a person climbs to the summit of a mountain, this gives him/her a sense of extreme joy and happiness and a feeling of victory and satisfaction.

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

Ans) Conquering summit is a great physical achievement. But more than that, it gives the climber the emotional and spiritual satisfaction. It satisfies man's eternal love for adventure.

5) "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?

Ans) That emotion is 'humility'.

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

Ans) The author left on Everest a picture of Guru Nanak. Rawat left a picture of Goddess Durga. Phu Durgi left a relic of the Buddha. Edmund Hillary, buried a Cross under the rock. All these were symbols of reverence for God.

7) What according to the writer, did his experience as an Everester teach him?

Ans) The experience of having conquered Mount Everest changed him completely. It made him realise his own smallness. the author experienced a great sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1) Why did the author climb Mount Everest?

Ans) The author climbed Mount Everest because it is the highest, the mightiest and has defied many previous attempts. It takes the last ounce of one's energy. It is a brutal struggle with rock and ice. Once taken up, it cannot be given up halfway because the passage back is as difficult as the passage onwards. And then, when the summit is climbed, there is the exhilaration, the joy of having done something, the sense of a battle fought and won. There is a feeling of victory and of happiness.

2) How does Ahluwalia explain the title of the lesson, 'The Summit Within'?

Ans) The writer was a member of the team that reached the summit of Mount Everest. It was a great achievement. But he did not feel vain or heroic. He felt that his conquest of Everest was merely a physical experience. There was another summit within every person. It was his own mind. One has to climb it also to get fuller knowledge of oneself. This exercise is difficult. It also changes one as does standing on the summit of Mt. Everest.

3) How did Ahluwalia feel standing on the summit?

Ans) Ahluwalia was overwhelmed by a deep sense of joy and thankfulness. Looking round from the summit, Ahluwalia told himself that his adventure, though risky, was worthwhile. The surrounding peaks looked like a jewelled necklace. It was an ennobling and enriching experience. He was filled with humility. He thanked God and then left on Everest a picture of Guru Nanak.

4) How does Ahluwalia describe his achievement?

Ans) Ahluwalia feels that Everest is not just a physical climb. Standing on the mountain's top he felt how small he was in the big universe. He experienced a sense of fulfilment. It satisfied his love for adventure. The experience was not just physical, but also emotional and spiritual.

5) What problems do the climbers face as they climb a mountain?

Ans) Breathing at great height is difficult. The climber has to cut the steps in the hard ice and he has to strain every nerve as he takes every step. Sometimes he curses himself for undertaking such a task. There are moments when he feels like going back for relief. But there is something that does not let him give up the struggle.