

Ch 8 : Reach for the Top
Beehive English

Santosh Yadav

I. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- 1. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?**

From her room in Kasturba Hostel, she watched people going up the Aravalli Hills and vanishing after a while. On investigating, she found nobody except a few mountaineers, and she asked if she could join them. They agreed and even motivated her to take to climbing and so she later accompanied them on their climbing expedition. This was how she began climbing mountains.

- 2. What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh's concern for her team-mates?**

During the Everest mission, Santosh showed immense concern for her fellow climbers. Though she was unsuccessful in saving the life of one of them, she did manage to save another climber through artificial respiration.

- 3. What shows her concern for the environment?**

Santosh was a fervent environmentalist. Her concern for the environment is evident from the fact that she collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

- 4. 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?**

When Santosh's parents refused to pay for her education, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part time to pay her school fees. Then, her parents agreed to pay for her schooling in Delhi. This shows that Santosh was a mentally-strong girl and was determined to work very hard to get herself properly educated.

- 5. How does she describe her feelings at the summit of the Everest?**

Santosh asserted that her feeling at the summit of the Everest was "indescribable". Unfurling the Indian flag on the top of the world was a spiritual moment for her and she felt proud as an Indian.

6. Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest.
What were the reasons for this?

When Santosh Yadav first scaled Mt Everest, she became the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat. When she scaled the Everest the second time, she became the only woman to have scaled it twice.

7. How did Santosh Yadav set records both the times when scaled Mount Everest?

Answer:

Santosh Yadav set records both the times when scaled Mount Everest. When she scaled the peak for the first time, she was the youngest woman to scale the Everest and when she climbed it the second time, she was the only woman to scale it twice.

PART II – MARIA SHARAPOVA

II. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. How was Maria different from other children?

Answer:

Maria was calmer and more composed, more confident and tolerant than the other children of her age. She also had inner strength that enabled her to make sacrifices – staying away from her mother, getting bullied by senior players in the hostel – that few children could think of making. Unlike most children, she did not buckle under hardships and adverse circumstances, but toiled hard to achieve success.

2. How does Maria describe her journey from Siberia to United States?

Answer:

Maria was just nine years old when she had to leave her home, mother and her country to go to the United States. She had to make many sacrifices in a foreign land where she did not even speak the language. She was bullied by senior players and had to face a lot of humiliation and insults. But she did not give in. Her competitive nature and hard work helped her become the world number one in women's tennis.

3. What does Maria declare to be her 'mantra for success'?

Answer:

Maria works really hard to fulfil her dreams. She does not shy away from making any sacrifice. She does not allow herself to be emotional and sentimental. She is very competitive and works hard to be the best in whatever she does. She is driven by her hunger to succeed and the dream of becoming the world number one in women's tennis. This is her mantra for success.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

“I’m Russian. It’s true that the U.S. is a big part of my life. But I have Russian citizenship. My blood is totally Russian. I will play the Olympics for Russia if they want me.”

(a) What light does this statement throw on Maria’s character?

ANS- Maria Sharapova takes immense pride in her nationality.

(b) What does she say about the US?

ANS- Maria acknowledges the contribution of the USA where she took training in tennis and became the world number one tennis player.

LONG QUESTION

Que- Lives of Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova have much in common to prove that determined and consistent hard work paves the way to success. Identify the points of comparison and contrast in the lives of these two great players.

Answer:

Santosh Yadav, the legendary mountaineer from India, and Maria Sharapova, Russia’s tennis sensation who trained in the USA, are living examples that single-minded determination and dedication and consistent hard work are the way to success. Both young women had to struggle against odds to reach the top. Santosh belonged to a small village in the Rewari district of Haryana while Maria came from the frozen plains of Siberia where she did not have adequate training facilities.

Although both girls were supported by their respective parents, Santosh, at times, had to struggle to make her conservative family agree to her decisions, while Maria’s parents were willing to make any sacrifice to help Maria succeed. However, both the young girls had to sacrifice the loving and protective environment of their homes in order to train for their passion.

Both the women had unwavering determination, physical and mental strength, and undivided focus on their goals. They both rose to the number one position in their respective areas within a short span of four years. While Sharapova moved from the frozen Siberia to the plains of Florida, Yadav moved from the plains of Rewari to the frozen Mount Everest. But both of them are devout patriots and their love for their country remains constant.

EXTRA QUESTIONS – (HOME ASSIGNMENT)

1. Give an example to show that even as a young girl Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable.
2. Why was Santosh sent to the local school?
3. When did Santosh leave home for Delhi, and why?
4. How did some of the other pupils at the tennis academy trouble Maria? How did she cope with this?
5. What motivates Maria to keep moving ahead?
6. Write few points about Santosh and Maria which inspired you after reading the text.

Answer- **Example –**
- **Their humble beginning**
- **Patriotism**
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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