Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: No Bird Can Fly Over It

1. Scaling the Mount Everest was a special glory to Tenzing Norgay as he was Asia’s first to have achieved this feat. Climbing was not just a challenging way of making a living for Tenzing, but was his passion.

2. Tenzing Norgay was of Mongolian origin. Their language, clothing, food and many more customs were similar. Like the Tibetans, he was a Buddhist.

3. Yak is useful for Sherpas in many ways. It is the great staple of life. From them we get wool for clothing, leather for shoes, dung for fuel, milk, butter and cheese for food and also sometimes meat. From it a man can get almost everything he needs to nourish him and keep him warm.

4. Deciding when a person is born is difficult in Solo Khumbu. Time is kept by the Tibetan Calendar which has no numbers for years but only names like the year of the Horse, the Tiger, the Ox, the Bird and the Serpent. There are twelve of them altogether, all named after animals of which six are male and six female and when they have passed, the cycle begins over again.

5. The end of May month has been lucky for Tenzing as it was the time of birth, the time of great expeditions and best mountain weather.

6. His real name was Namgyal Wangdi. But at the suggestion of a Lama, he was renamed as Tenzing Norgay and the reason was that he predicted great things for him. Norgay means ‘wealthy’ or ‘fortunate’. Tenzing means ‘supporter of religion’.

7. When Tenzing was sent to a monastery as a kid, his head was shaved and he was made to put on a robe of a novice. Once, one of the Lamas got angry with him and hit him on his bare head with a wooden board. He ran home never to return.

8. No he didn’t buy the mountaineering shoes but rented them. However, he could never use them as they were very heavy.

9. Tenzing had never heard of ‘Everest’ though he knew it was the same as ‘Chomolungma’, as they were at the other side of it.

10. When Tenzing ran to Kathmandu, for two weeks he went around the city but soon felt homesick. He met other people from his village and he returned with them. He was away for six weeks from his family and when he came back, they were so glad to see him that they hugged him and then spanked him.