8.Reach for the Top (Beehive)

Part I

Q1. Why was the ‘holy man’, who gave Santosh’s mother his blessing, surprised?

1. Santosh’s grandmother told the holy man that they wanted a daughter not a son. It was against a traditional society where male child is preferred. So the holy man was surprised.

Q2. Give an example to show that even as a young girl Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable?

1. Other girls in the village wore traditional Indian dresses but Santosh preferred shorts. It shows that even as a young girl, Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable.

Q3. Why was Santosh sent to the local village school?

1. It was the prevailing custom in the family not to send girls outside the village to get education. So, she was sent to the local village school.

Q4. When did she leave home for Delhi and why?

1. At the age of sixteen, parents wanted that Santosh should get married. But Santosh refused. She said she would never marry if she did not get proper education. She left home to study at a school in Delhi.

Q5.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?

1. Santosh told her parents that she would earn money by working part time to pay her school fee in Delhi if they did not pay. Then her parents had to agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi This shows that Santosh was determined to achieve her goal.

II.Q1. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?

1. Santosh was in Jaipur to get higher education. She was living at Kasturba Hostel facing Aravalli Hills. She watched people from her hostel room going up the Aravalli Hills and vanishing after a while. She was curious to find it. She went there and found certain mountaineers .She asked them if she could join them. They permitted her and encouraged her to take up climbing. This was how she began climbing mountains.

Q2. What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh’s concern for her team-mates?

1. During the Everest mission, Santosh helped a dying climber but could not save his life. There was another climber Mohan Singh. She shared her oxygen with him and saved his life. These incidents show her concern for her team-mates.

Q3. What shows her concern for the environment?

1. Santosh was fervent environmentalist. While on the Everest mission, she collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

Q4. How does she describe her feeling at the summit of the Everest?

1. Santosh said that the feeling at the summit of the Everest was indescribable and it too some moments to sink in. Hoisting the Indian flag was spiritual moment for her and she felt proud as an Indian.

Q5. Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt. Everest. What were the reasons for this?

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

Part II Maria Sharapova

Q1. How are Maria’s achievements significant?

1. Maria worked hard and sacrificed her childhood for being the number one in tennis. She had to bear the pain of separation from her mother as her mother could not get visa to go to the US. The economic condition of her father was not good. He could not give her much company as he had to work for long hours to meet the expenses of her training. So ,her achievements are significant.

Q2. Why does Maria call herself totally Russian?

1. Though Maria lives in the US, but at heart she is a Russian. She says that her blood is totally Russian, and wants to represent Russia in the Olympics.

This is an indication of her patriotism and her true love for her country.