

Introduction

This lesson is a biographical piece on Santosh Yadav. Born in a small village of Haryana, Santosh scaled Mt Everest at barely twenty years of age.

Summary

Santosh was born in the small village of *Joniyawas* of *Rewari* district in Haryana. She was the youngest child of her parents. She had five brothers.

She began living life on her own terms from her childhood. Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts. She was sent to a local village school. When she was sixteen, her parents pressurised her to get married. But she wanted to get proper education. So, she left home and joined a school in Delhi. She passed high school from there.

Then she went to Jaipur. She joined Maharani College and got a room in Kasturba Hostel. From her room she used to watch villagers going up the hill and suddenly disappearing after a while. She decided to check it out herself. She met a few mountaineers there and they motivated her to take to climbing. She enjoyed climbing the mountain and decided to pursue her interest.

She saved money and enrolled in a course at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering.

Santosh went on an expedition every year. She developed a remarkable resistance to cold and altitude. She had iron will, physical endurance and mental toughness.

The culmination of her hard work and sincerity came in 1992 when she scaled Mt Everest at twenty years of age. She was the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat. An Indo-Nepalese Women's Expedition enrolled Santosh as a member and invited her to join them. She then scaled the Everest a second time.

The Indian Government bestowed upon her the Padmashri in recognition of her achievements.

She is a fervent environmentalist. She has collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

Message

This chapter conveys gender-equality. It highlights that nothing is impossible for women to achieve.

 **Extract** Based Questions 

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

When her mother was expecting Santosh, a travelling 'holy man,' giving her his blessing, assumed that she wanted a son. But, to everyone's surprise, the unborn child's grandmother, who was standing close by, told him that they did not want a son. The 'holy man' was also surprised! Nevertheless, he gave the requested blessing..... and as destiny would have it, the blessing seemed to work. Santosh was born the sixth child in a family with five sons, a sister to five brothers. She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari district in Haryana.

- (a) Santosh was born as the child in a family with five sons.
 (i) seventh (ii) sixth
 (iii) fifth (iv) fourth
- (b) Fill in the blank with one word only.
 When Santosh was to be born, a blessed her mother that she would beget a son.
- (c) State whether the given statement is True or False.
 Santosh has four brothers and a sister.
- (d) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
 assumed : supposed :: astounded :

Answers

- (a) (ii) sixth
 (b) saint
 (c) False
 (d) surprised

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The girl was given the name 'Santosh', which means contentment. But Santosh was not always content with her place in a traditional way of life. She began living life on her own terms from the start. Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts. Looking back, she says now, 'From the very beginning I was quite determined that if I chose a correct and a rational path, the others around me had to change, not me.'

- (a) Santosh was dissatisfied with the:
 (i) traditional way of life (ii) modern living
 (iii) members of her family (iv) childhood days
- (b) Santosh was determined to live life according to what she felt
- (c) In her young age, Santosh preferred to wear:
 (i) salwar kameez (ii) shorts
 (iii) skirts (iv) frocks
- (d) The word opposite in meaning to the word 'contentment' is

Answers

- (a) (i) traditional way of life
 (b) right
 (c) (ii) shorts
 (d) dissatisfied

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Santosh's parents were affluent landowners who could afford to send their children to the best schools, even to the country's capital, New Delhi, which was quite close by. But, in line with the prevailing custom in the family, Santosh had to make do with the local village school. So, she decided to fight the system in her own quiet way when the right moment arrived. And the right moment came when she turned sixteen. At sixteen, most of the girls in her village used to get married. Santosh was also under pressure from her parents to do the same.

- (a) Due to the prevailing customs, Santosh was sent to a school in:
 (i) local village (ii) Delhi
 (iii) nearby town (iv) nearby city
- (b) Santosh's parents could even afford the money to send their children to study in the best schools in
- (c) Most of the girls of Santosh's village were married off at the age of:
 (i) seventeen (ii) sixteen
 (iii) eighteen (iv) nineteen
- (d) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
 prevailing : widespread :: prosperous :

Answers

- (a) (i) local village
 (b) New Delhi
 (c) (ii) sixteen
 (d) affluent

4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

A marriage as early as that was the last thing on her mind. She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get a proper education. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. When her 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. Her parents then agreed to pay for her education.

- (a) State whether the given statement is True or False.
 Santosh's parents ultimately refused to pay for her education.
- (b) Santosh informed her parents about funding her studies by
- (c) Santosh's parents refused to pay for her:
 (i) education (ii) clothes
 (iii) extra expenses (iv) hostel
- (d) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
 early : late :: haughtily :

Answers

- (a) False
 (b) working part time
 (c) (i) education
 (d) politely

5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Then there was no looking back for this determined young girl. She saved money and enrolled in a course at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. 'My college semester in Jaipur was to end in April but it ended on the nineteenth of May. And I was supposed to be in Uttarkashi on the twenty-first. So, I did not go back home; instead I headed straight for the training. I had to write a letter of apology to my father without whose permission I had got myself enrolled at Uttarkashi.'

- (a) 'No looking back' here means:
(i) not looking backward
(ii) to progress without interruption
(iii) went towards the back
(iv) thinking about the past days
- (b) Santosh saved money to get enrolled in a course.
- (c) Santosh's college semester in Jaipur ended on:
(i) 18 May (ii) 19 May
(iii) 20 May (iv) 21 May
- (d) The word similar in meaning to the word 'determined' is

Answers

- (a) (ii) to progress without interruption
(b) mountaineering
(c) (ii) 19 May
(d) resolute

6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Within twelve months, Santosh found herself a member of an Indo-Nepalese Women's Expedition that invited her to join them. She then scaled the Everest a second time, thus setting a record as the only woman to have scaled the Everest twice, and securing for herself and India a unique place in the annals of mountaineering. In recognition of her achievements, the Indian Government bestowed upon her one of the nation's top honours, the *Padma Shri*.

- (a) Santosh climbed the peak and became the only woman to have climbed the Everest:
(i) first time (ii) twice
(iii) thrice (iv) four times
- (b) Santosh had joined a group of mountaineer woman, within twelve months.
- (c) 'Annals' in the extract means:
(i) recent records (ii) historical records
(iii) future events (iv) current events
- (d) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
honour : disgrace :: failure :

Answers

- (a) (ii) twice
(b) Indo-Nepalese
(c) (ii) historical records
(d) achievement



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Why was the holy man surprised when the blessing for a girl child was requested?

Ans. Usually the birth of a son was regarded as a blessing in the society in which Santosh was born. But Santosh's grandmother told the holy man that they did not want a son. She asked him to bless Santosh's mother with the birth of a girl. This surprised the holy man greatly.

Q 2. What decision did Santosh take when she turned sixteen?

Ans. When Santosh turned sixteen, her parents started pressurising her to get married. But she decided to go to Delhi to complete her school education.

Q 3. What motivated Santosh for mountain climbing?

Ans. When Santosh was a student of Maharani college, Jaipur, she lived in Kasturba Hostel. This hostel faced the Aravalli Hills. She saw villagers going up the hill and suddenly vanishing after a while. One day she decided to check it out. She met some mountaineers there. When she asked if she could join them, they answered in the affirmative. This motivated her to take to climbing.

Q 4. How did Santosh learn to climb mountains?

Ans. Santosh enrolled in a course at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. Then she went on an expedition every year. Thus, she learned to climb mountains.

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

Ans. For Santosh, it was a very great moment. It took some time for the enormity of the moment to sink in. Then, she unfurled the Indian tricolour and held it aloft. She says that the feeling is indescribable and was truly a spiritual moment. She felt proud as an Indian.

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

Ans. Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest. First time, because she was the youngest woman in the world to scale Mt Everest and second time, because she was the only woman in the world to scale Mt Everest two times.

Q 7. What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh's concern for her team-mates and environment?

Ans. During the 1992 Everest mission, Santosh Yadav provided special care to a climber but unfortunately she could not save him. However, she saved the life of another climber, Mohan Singh by sharing her oxygen with him. She also collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

Long Answer Type Questions ↘

Q 1. 'Santosh began living life on her own terms from the start.' Support your answer by giving examples from the text.

Ans. Santosh began living life on her own terms from the start. Following examples support this view:

- (i) Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred to wear shorts.
- (ii) She was admitted to the local village school as per family custom. But when she turned sixteen, she left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. She passed high school from there.
- (iii) At sixteen, most of the girls in her village got married. Santosh was also under pressure from her parents to get married. She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get a proper education.

Q 2. 'Determination and courage made Santosh reach for the top of the world.' Justify.

Ans. From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to watch the Aravalli mountaineers and she was motivated by them.

She saved money and enrolled in a course at Uttarkashi Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. Santosh went on an expedition every year. Her climbing skills matured rapidly. She was equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness. At barely twenty years of age, Santosh scaled Mt Everest in 1992. Santosh became the youngest woman in the world to achieve this feat. She was then included in Indo-Nepalese women's Expedition and scaled the Mt Everest a second time, thus setting a record to have scaled the Everest twice. She achieved all this only on account of her determination and courage.

Q 3. 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?

Ans. When Santosh was sixteen her parents started pressurising her for getting married. But Santosh wanted to study and left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. Her parents refused to pay for her education. She then politely informed her parents of her plans to earn money by working part-time to pay her school fees. Her parents then agreed to pay for her schooling in Delhi.

This incident brings out the mental qualities of politeness, self-help and resourcefulness.

Part II

Maria Sharapova

Introduction

Maria Sharapova is a Russian girl. She was sent to the United States for training at the age of nine. She reached the summit of women's tennis, becoming world's number one when she was barely eighteen.

Summary

Maria was born in the frozen plains of Siberia in Russia. At the age of nine years, she was sent off to Florida in the USA. Her father Yuri accompanied her and worked hard there to keep her tennis training going. Her mother, Yelena, had to stay back due to visa restrictions.

She was the youngest pupil at the Academy. The other pupils harassed her. But she was not depressed. She became more determined and mentally tough.

She bagged the women's singles crown at Wimbledon in 2004. Next year she rose to the world number one spot.

She is proud of her Russian nationality. She has Russian citizenship. She is patriotic. She says, "My blood is totally Russian. I will play the Olympics for Russia if they want me."

Fashion, singing and dancing are her hobbies.

For her, tennis is a business and a sport. She says, "the most important thing is to become number one in the world. That's the dream that kept me going."

Message

Talent, unwavering desire to succeed, and readiness to sacrifice can lift one to the top of the world.

Extract Based Questions ↘

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

However, the rapid ascent in a fiercely competitive world began nine years before with a level of sacrifice few children would be prepared to endure. Little Maria had not

yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States. That trip to Florida with her father Yuri launched her on the path to success and stardom. But it also required a heart-wrenching two-year separation from her mother Yelena. The latter was compelled to stay back in Siberia because of visa restrictions. The nine-year old girl had already learnt an important lesson in life---that tennis excellence would only come at a price.

- (a) Maria was extremely sad as she had to spend a separation from her mother.
 (i) two-year (ii) three-year
 (iii) six-year (iv) four-year
- (b) Fill in the blank with one word only.
 Maria was sent to Florida with her father for training in at the age of ten.
- (c) Maria's mother was forced to stay back in:
 (i) Florida (ii) India
 (iii) Siberia (iv) Japan
- (d) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
 launched : established : : forced :

Answers

- (a) (i) two-year
 (b) tennis
 (c) (iii) Siberia
 (d) compelled

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Because I was so young, I used to go to bed at 8 p.m. The other tennis pupils would come in at 11 p.m. and wake me up and order me to tidy up the room and clean it.

'Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough. I learnt how to take care of myself. I never thought of quitting because I knew what I wanted. When you come from nothing and you have nothing, then it makes you very hungry and determined.....I would have put up with much more humiliation and insults than that to steadfastly pursue my dream.'

- (a) Maria was very young and so, she would go to sleep at:
 (i) 8 p.m. (ii) 9 p.m.
 (iii) 10 p.m. (iv) 11 p.m.
- (b) In order to achieve her dream, Maria would have put up with even greater
- (c) Maria never thought of leaving as she was determined to:
 (i) take care of her (ii) achieve her aim
 (iii) be get depressed (iv) do anything
- (d) The word similar in meaning to the word 'humiliation' is

Answers

- (a) (i) 8 p.m.
 (b) humiliation
 (c) (ii) achieve her aim
 (d) disgrace

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

While her journey from the frozen plains of Siberia to the summit of women's tennis has touched the hearts of tennis fans, for the younger herself there appears to be no room for sentiment. The straight looks and the answers she gives

when asked about her ambition make it amply clear that she considers the sacrifices were worth it. 'I am very, very competitive. I work hard at what I do. It's my job.' This is her mantra for success.

- (a) State whether the given statement is True or False.
 Maria considers that her sacrifices were not worth what she achieved.
- (b) Tennis fans feel emotional to know about Maria's journey from the frozen region of Siberia to the summit of
- (c) Maria's mantra for success is that she is:
 (i) intelligent and hard-working
 (ii) competitive and hard-working
 (iii) emotional and competitive
 (iv) sentimental and gives importance to work
- (d) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
 sentiment : emotion : : apex :

Answers

- (a) False
 (b) women's tennis
 (c) (ii) competitive and hard-working
 (d) summit

4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Maria Sharapova cannot be pigeon-holed or categorised. Her talent, unwavering desire to succeed and readiness to sacrifice have lifted her to the top of the world. Few would grudge her the riches she is now reaping. This is what she has to say about her monetary gains from tennis: 'Of course, money is a motivation. Tennis is a business and a sport, but the most important thing is to become number one in the world. That's the dream that kept me going.'

- (a) Maria says:
 (i) money doesn't matter
 (ii) money is a motivation
 (iii) monetary gains are useless
 (iv) dreams never come true
- (b) 'Pigeon-holed' here means
- (c) The antonym of 'grudge' is:
 (i) animosity (ii) appreciation
 (iii) bitterness (iv) hatred
- (d) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.
 readiness : preparedness : : skill :

Answers

- (a) (ii) money is a motivation
 (b) classified
 (c) (ii) appreciation
 (d) talent



Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 1. Describe Maria's stay and training in the US.
 Ans. Maria went to Florida for training in tennis. There she felt lonely and missed her mother greatly. Her father was not able to give her enough time. She was bullied by the senior girls at the Academy. However, all this made her tough and determined.

Q 2. Describe briefly Maria's hobbies and interest.

Ans. Like any teenager, Maria's hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing. She loves reading novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. She is fond of sophisticated evening gowns. She loves pancakes with chocolate spread accompanied with fizzy orange drinks.

Q 3. Which years can be deemed as landmarks in Maria Sharapova's career?

Ans. The following years can be deemed as landmarks in Maria Sharapova's career:

- (i) The year 2004 in which she won the women's singles at Wimbledon.
- (ii) The year 2005 in which she attained the world number one position in women's tennis.

Q 4. Describe Maria's feelings about her Russian roots.

Ans. Maria is proud to be a Russian. She was also willing to participate in the Olympics as a Russian contender. If given a chance. She proudly parades her Russian nationality.

Q 5. Discuss the secret of Maria's success.

Or

What is Maria's mantra for success?

Ans. Determination and mental toughness are the secrets of Maria's success. She was highly competitive and worked hard. The challenges faced by her made her more alert and mentally tough.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Describe Maria's journey from the frozen plains of Siberia to the summit of women's tennis.

Ans. Maria was born in the frozen plains of Siberia in Russia. When she was nine-years old, she was sent to the United States for tennis training. Her father Yuri accompanied her to Florida. Her mother, Yelena, was not able to accompany her because of visa restrictions. Her father worked very hard to keep her tennis training going. So, he was not able to meet her regularly. So, for two years she was quite lonely. Being young, at the Tennis Academy, Maria used to go to bed at 8 p.m. The other tennis pupils would come in at 11 p.m and used to bully her and force her to clean the room.

In spite of being depressed, she became quietly determined and mentally tough. She never thought of quitting. She bravely faced the humiliation and insults and continued to steadfastly pursue her dream. Her hard work and dedication paid off.

Maria bagged the women's singles crown at Wimbledon in 2004. On Monday, 2 August, 2005 she rose to the world number one position in women's tennis.

Q 2. 'Sacrifice is the key to the rapid ascent in a fiercely competitive world.' How far is it true in the case of Maria Sharapova?

Ans. Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States with her father. She had to bear the pangs of separation from her mother for two years who was not able to accompany her due to visa restrictions. The nine-year-old girl learned early that tennis excellence would only come at a price. However, she makes it clear that the sacrifices she made were worth the success.

Her talent, unwavering desire to succeed and readiness to sacrifice have lifted her to the top of the world.

Thus, we see that sacrifice is the key to her meteoric rise to the world number one spot.

Q 3. Compare the life graph of Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova.

Ans.

| Basis of Difference | Santosh Yadav | Maria Sharapova |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Birth</u> | She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari district in Haryana. | She was born in the frozen plains of Siberia, Russia. |
| <u>Parent's contribution</u> | Her parents refused to pay for her education in Delhi. She joined the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarkashi. | Her parents sent her for training in Florida, USA. |
| <u>Qualities</u> | Equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness, she proved herself repeatedly. | She became determined and mentally tough, she learnt how to take care of herself. |
| <u>Achievements</u> | She scaled Mt Everest twice. | She won the women's singles Wimbledon crown in 2004. |