

“View From the Summit” by Edmund Hillary
“The Dream Comes True” from *The Tiger of the Snows* by Tenzing Norgay

Selection Test

Critical Reading

In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

- _____ 1. In “View From the Summit,” Hillary describes walking on breakable crust as “one of the most unpleasant mountaineering conditions.” Why would it be especially difficult to walk in these conditions?
- When the surface shatters, climbers stagger forward.
 - There is a greater chance of avalanche.
 - There is no secure place to establish a belay.
 - The crusty snow is extremely slippery.
- _____ 2. In “View From the Summit,” when Hillary notices that Norgay is moving slowly and seems in distress, what does he do?
- Hillary examines Norgay’s oxygen equipment.
 - Hillary has Norgay take the lead so he can keep an eye on him.
 - Hillary loosens the belay so that Norgay can move more easily.
 - Hillary takes the lead so Norgay can follow in his tracks.
- _____ 3. What does Hillary imply in “View From the Summit” when, recalling his reaction to reaching the summit, he says, “In typical Anglo-Saxon fashion, I stretched out my arm for a handshake, but this was not enough for Tenzing who threw his arms around my shoulders . . .”?
- Hillary implies that Norgay was insulted by his handshake.
 - Hillary implies that Norgay overreacted when he reached the summit.
 - Hillary implies Anglo Saxons tend to be reserved.
 - Hillary implies that he was put off by Norgay’s exuberance.
- _____ 4. Which of the following statements made by Hillary about Norgay is a fact?
- Norgay surged on “with impressive strength” through the snow.
 - Norgay was “moving rather slowly” and “in some distress” when his oxygen mask froze up.
 - Norgay plowed a knee-deep path “to the top of the bulge at 28,000 feet.”
 - Norgay “made his way laboriously” between the ice cornice and the rock.
- _____ 5. Choose the statement that best captures the author’s perspective of the following passage from “View From the Summit.”
- Although it would be relatively useless, I got Tenzing to establish a belay; then I eased my way into the crack, facing the rock. I jammed my crampons into the ice behind me and then wriggled my way upward using every little handhold I could find. Puffing for breath, I made steady height—the ice was holding—and forty feet up I pulled myself out of the crack onto the top of the rock face . . . I waved to Tenzing and brought in the rope as he, too, made his way laboriously up the crack and dragged himself out beside me, panting for breath.
- Both men managed a difficult climb, but Hillary was in charge, leading the way.
 - Hillary always went first.
 - Norgay’s arms were weak; he needed the support of the rope to make it up.
 - Hillary went up first to make sure the route was safe, then pulled Norgay up.

- ___ 6. What aspects of the climb does Hillary emphasize in “View From the Summit”?
- I. the amount of oxygen it takes to complete a climb
 - II. how difficult their descent will be
 - III. the views during the climb and from the mountain top
 - IV. the conditions of the snow and rock
- a. I and II b. II and III c. II and IV d. III and IV
- ___ 7. In “The Dream Comes True,” what is Norgay’s comment about the trouble with the oxygen masks freezing up?
- a. It happened just once.
 - b. It happened to both men periodically throughout the climb.
 - c. It happened only to Norgay, not to Hillary.
 - d. Hillary was the only one who could fix the problem when it occurred.
- ___ 8. In his book, Norgay addresses the issue of who got to the summit first because
- a. he respects Hillary and wants him to get the credit.
 - b. he doesn’t want the issue to get in the way of the accomplishment.
 - c. it was always his dream to climb Mt. Everest.
 - d. everyone has been asking questions.
- ___ 9. In “View From the Summit” and “The Dream Comes True,” Hillary’s and Norgay’s equipment included
- I. an extra pair of boots
 - II. rope
 - III. an ice ax
 - IV. a portable kerosene heater
- a. I and II b. I and III c. II and III d. III and IV
- ___ 10. What is Norgay’s perspective in this passage from “The Dream Comes True”?
- In my opinion our difficulties were the same—and luckily never too great—and we each helped and were helped by the other in equal measure.
- a. The men were unfair to each other.
 - b. The men were equal partners.
 - c. One climber would have been in real trouble without the other.
 - d. The men had no great difficulties and therefore got along well with each other.
- ___ 11. In “The Dream Comes True,” what is the attitude of Norgay toward Hillary?
- a. He considers Hillary a snob who robbed him of his rightful fame.
 - b. He has only words of praise for Hillary.
 - c. He respects Hillary but questions the accuracy or fairness of Hillary’s book.
 - d. He resents being represented as an assistant on the climb.
- ___ 12. Norgay’s account might be considered the more accurate because
- a. he doesn’t use fancy words like “undulations”; he just describes what he sees.
 - b. he doesn’t confuse the reader with technical descriptions of the oxygen bottles.
 - c. he claims much of the responsibility for the success of the climb.
 - d. he gives equal credit to himself and Hillary for making the climb together.
- ___ 13. Choose the statement that is a fact.
- a. One of the last challenges before reaching the summit was a great rock step.
 - b. Norgay was not a very good step cutter.
 - c. To reach the summit, Hillary would not have stopped for any reason.
 - d. Norgay was just a guide and deserves little credit for the success of the climb.
- ___ 14. Why is it important to determine the author’s perspective?
- a. to know the author’s purpose for writing
 - b. to know whether the author is for or against the main topic
 - c. to know whether the work is written in first or third person
 - d. to be aware of possible slants or biases in the work

- ___ 15. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
- A 400-foot-long snow slope rose steeply up toward the South Summit.
 - We were wearing every piece of clothing we possessed.
 - I wiped the snow off the dials and saw that the bottles were less than a third full of oxygen.
 - Out came all our delicacies, with the tinned apricots being a special treat.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 16. In which sentence does the noun function as a predicate nominative?
- Norgay cooked chicken noodle soup for dinner.
 - Hillary squeezed Norgay's mask to dislodge the ice.
 - Norgay established a belay for Hillary.
 - Hillary was the first person to reach the summit.
- ___ 17. In "View From the Summit," Hillary describes a route to the summit of Makalu as "feasible" because it
- appears to be extremely dangerous.
 - disappears suddenly.
 - looks possible.
 - seems questionable.
- ___ 18. In "View From the Summit," Hillary refers to the last thousand feet of a ridge attempted by earlier British expeditions as a formidable barrier. This suggests that the ridge _____.
- was steep
 - inspired fear
 - angled sharply
 - was icy
- ___ 19. Chose the sentence in which the noun functions are correctly labeled.
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|----|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------|----------------|
| S | S | DO | DO | OP |
| a. | Hillary and Norgay | ate | warm soup and tinned apricots | in their tent. |
- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------|----------------|
| S | PN | DO | DO | DO |
| b. | Hillary and Norgay | ate | warm soup and tinned apricots | in their tent. |
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| S | S | OP | OP | DO |
| c. | Hillary and Norgay | ate | warm soup and tinned apricots | in their tent. |
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| PN | PN | DO | DO | OP |
| d. | Hillary and Norgay | ate | warm soup and tinned apricots | in their tent. |
- ___ 20. The word *aperture* means _____.
- photograph
 - light
 - shutter speed
 - opening

Essay Questions

21. Reread the passages in "View From the Summit" and "The Dream Comes True" in which Hillary and Norgay describe their thoughts upon reaching the summit of Mt. Everest. What does each man describe? What do the descriptions reveal about each man? In an essay, compare and contrast the two men's views. Then, draw conclusions about the characters of the men based on their descriptions.
22. In his account, Hillary uses terms such as "standard aperture" and "laboriously," whereas Norgay writes in simpler sentences with fewer technical words. Which account did you find more engaging? How did the language contribute to your impression? Answer these questions in an essay, using details from the selections to support your points.
23. In an essay, examine Hillary's account, specifically his representation of and attitude toward Norgay. Is Norgay justified in feeling that Hillary is unfair to him in his account? Use details from both selections to support your argument.