

“I felt as though I was on top of the world.”



Write about a time when you felt like this.

WRITERS AT WORK Model Composition Showcase : Secondary 3

29 May 1953. On this day, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first people to scale Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. As a child, I was fascinated by their momentous undertaking. Towering beanstalks and castles in the sky were the stuff of fairy tales but standing at the top of the world with the clouds at my feet was reality. Inspired by their efforts, it became my childhood ambition to scale mountains.

My fifteenth birthday marked an important milestone in my life; I had reached the international age requirement for mountaineering. Champing at the bit to conquer my first peak, I set my sights on Mount Rinjani in the Indonesian island of Lombok. The active volcano offered a panoramic view of the Sunda archipelago, but it was a tough climb for novice mountaineers. To strengthen my physique and build my stamina, I committed myself to months of load training exercises. I spent countless weekends hiking in nature reserves with a backpack half my weight. Although the training was excruciating, I persevered and pushed past my physical limits. Scaling Mount Rinjani was the first of many planned conquests and failure was not an option.

Answer to Question



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The fateful day arrived, and my father and I embarked on our journey. The call of adventure had seized me in its grasp, sinking its claws into my thrill-seeking soul and refusing to release me until my hunger had been satiated. We enlisted the help of local guides and made it to base camp without a hitch. As we set down our belongings, I paused to marvel at the breathtaking scenery. Our camp was situated on a cliff's edge overlooking an expansive crater lake. Kaleidoscopic hues shimmered off the surface of the lake. Rocky outcrops framed the picturesque view. The lake was pristine, immaculate, untainted by the presence of mankind. It truly was a sight to behold.

Armed with a bevy of portable stoves and cookware, the local guides whipped up a sumptuous feast of local delicacies. Aromatic spices wafted in the cool mountain air, sending my olfactory senses into overdrive. The commute had left me famished, and I could hardly wait to devour my dinner. The dying rays of sunlight flitted across the edges of the crater, staining the night sky in watercolour tints. With a full belly and a mesmerising sight, I was on cloud nine. As twilight settled, we retreated to our tents. We needed to reach the peak by sunrise, and I needed all the rest I could get. In the blink of an eye, it was time to begin our ascent.

Character feelings

Impressive phrase

5 senses - Smell



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Unfortunately, I had caught a cold from the cool mountain air, leaving me in frail condition. Nonetheless, I was determined to fulfil my dream. In the dead of night, we fumbled our way through the thick undergrowth. Flickering torches were our only bulwark against the smothering darkness, illuminating our path at sporadic intervals. Slippery rails and tracks impeded our progress, and I was tempted to give up. The final straw landed when we encountered a precarious ravine. The only way to reach the other side was to crawl along a lone wooden plank bridging both ends. Peering at the ominous abyss below, I was all but ready to throw in the towel. On a good day, this would already be a daunting task. However, to heave my fatigued body across in pitch darkness would be dancing with the devil. Echoing my apprehension, some climbers decided to retreat to base camp. Father even offered me a sympathetic smile, assuring me that I had done enough. I was ready to surrender but a niggling thought pricked at my conscience. The peak was so close – if I gave up now, I would never live it down. Nothing worth having comes easy and I needed to fight for my dream. With renewed invigoration, I tightened my backpack straps, straddled the wooden plank, and shuffled my way across the ravine. Nothing would stand between me and my dream.

5 senses

idiom

Character thoughts

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As the soil underfoot gave way to loose gravel, I knew we were reaching our destination. The mountain air thinned at high altitudes and plunged to bone-chilling temperatures. We gingerly made our way up the summit trail. **One wrong step at these perilous heights would lead to our certain demise.** The incline grew gentler with each step before levelling out entirely. This was it – we finally scaled Mount Rinjani! Right on cue, the first rays of dawn broke across the horizon, heralding the start of a new day. **The incandescent sun rays kissed my frosty cheeks, imparting their cherished warmth.** I was spellbound by the majestic sight. From my lofty vantage point, I could see faraway mountain ridges cresting and falling, undulating across the lush landscape. The canopy far below rustled to life as Mother Nature roused from her slumber. An ocean of cotton clouds obscured the land, blurring the divide between heaven and earth. In that resplendent moment, all my pain dissipated, and tears welled in my eyes. **Against all odds, I had overcome myriad obstacles and fulfilled my childhood ambition. It might not be Mount Everest, but I truly felt on top of the world.**

Good description

5 senses - Sight

Answer to Question



Your essay followed a clear and logical structure, making your points easy to understand. Your introduction was strong, and your conclusion reinforced your argument effectively. Keep practicing this clarity in writing!

