



# INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

## SENIOR SECTION

### DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

#### CLASS IX

#### REACH FOR THE TOP - I & II



Date: .....

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#### SANTOSH YADAV

Santosh was born in the small Village of Joniyawas in Haryana. She is the only sister of five brothers. She began living life on her own terms from the start. Other girls wore traditional Indian dresses. But she wore shorts. She thought that if she chose a correct path others would change themselves, not she. Girls were married when they turned sixteen.

But Santosh refused to marry. She warned her parents that she would never marry if she did not get a proper education. So she got admission in a school in Delhi. Her parents refused to pay for her education. She said she would earn money by working part time.

Her parents agreed to pay her money for education. It proves that she was a kind of girl different from other girls.

Santosh completed her education in Jaipur. She then took admission in Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. There Santosh went on an expedition every year. Her climbing matured rapidly. Also she developed a remarkable resistance to cold and the altitude. She had an iron will and physical endurance. She had great mental toughness also.

A chance came to her to climb Mount Everest in 1992. She conquered it. She became the youngest woman in the world to climb it. Within twelve months the Indo-Nepalese Women's Expedition invited her to join it. She then conquered Everest a second time.

#### MARIA SHARAPOVA

Maria Sharapova is a woman of determination. She is mentally tough. She never thought of quitting though she faced depression. She came from nothing and had nothing. This made her hungry and determined. Due to this toughness she bagged the ladies singles crown at Wimbledon in 2004. In August 2005 she became the world's number one woman in Women's Tennis.

It is said that one has to lose something to get something. This is fully applicable in the case of Maria Sharapova. When she had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday she

was packed off to train in the United States. It was a heart-wrenching two-year separation from her mother Yelena.

Yelena 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. She recalls how lonely she felt and how she missed her mother badly.

Her father also could not see her either. She was woken up and ordered to tidy up and clean the room by her seniors. Instead of getting depressed she became more determined and mentally tough. Success did come to her in the end.

### **I. Read the extracts below and answer the questions that follow:**

**A.** The only woman in the world who has scaled Mount Everest twice was born in a society where the birth of a son was regarded as a blessing, and a daughter, though not considered a curse, was not generally welcome. When her mother was expecting Santhosh, a travelling ‘holy man’, giving her his blessings, assumed that she wanted a son.

- i. How did the society in which Santhosh was born, look at a son or a daughter at their birth?
- ii. What surprised the ‘holy man’?
- iii. What was ‘the requested blessing’?

**B.** “Maria Sharapova recalls, “My father was working as much as he could to keep my tennis-training going. So, couldn’t see me either”. And she said that “I would have put up with much more humiliations and insults that that to steadfastly pursue my dream.”

- i. Why was Maria Sharapova alone?
- ii. Why could her father not see her?
- iii. Why did other pupils treat her badly?

### **II. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words**

- i. What difficulties did Santosh face in her childhood?
- ii. How did Santosh take to climbing?
- iii. How did Maria Sharapova achieve her success in world tennis ?
- iv. What are Maria Sharapova’s hobbies as given in ‘Reach for the Top’?

### **III. Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.**

1. ‘Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.’? What values made Santosh serve society?