Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CLIMBING EVEREST WITH A MOUNTAIN ON MY BACK: THE SHERPA’S STORY

1) Mount Everest is the world’s tallest mountain. Approximately how many people attempt to summit the mountain each climbing season?

Over 1000

2) Who is behind almost every endeavour to summit?

Sherpas, the unsung hero’s of the mountain

3) What do Sherpa’s do for their clients who are attempting to summit?

Guide, carry equipement, prepare route, rescue climbers, and risk their lives so others can the glory.

4) What is the name of the man who was part of the 1922 British Expedition, the first full scale attempt to climb Mount Everest?

George Mallory

5) How many men were part of this Expedition and of them, how many were actually Brittish?

160 men, only 13 are British.

6) Describe the first ever recorded deaths on Mount Everest.

-7 of Mallory’s Sherpas were caught in an avalanche on the North Call.

7) Who joined Mallory two years later on a second attempt to reach the summit?

-5 Sherpas and Oxford student Andrew Irvine.

8) What was the fate of that expedition?

-5 sherpas returned, their two bodies vanished

9) Whose body was found in 1999?

-Mallory’s

10) What is the goal of the 2011 Spring Expedition?

-To search for Irvine’s body near the peak

11) What does the word “Sherpa” mean

-People from the east

12) What does the Sherpa word “*Chomolungma*”, given to the mountain, mean?

-Goddess mother of the world.

13) Why do the Sherpa’s choose to live where they do?

-to live above 3000 meters, high in the mountains, as close to the seat of the gods as possible.

14) How are Sherpas physically adept for climbing high peaks?

-they can breath more efficiently at high altitudes, their pulmonary blood pressure rises less than others. They have at least 10 genes adapted for high altitude living.

15) What three reasons are given for draping the prayer flags along the mountain route?

-Seek devine blessing, spread compassion and bring good luck to the expedition

16) For the Sherpas, climbing Everest has nothing to do with personal glory, instead it is an expression of religious beliefs. It helps them reach enlightenment by allowing them to practice compassion and selflessness. How does this translate on the mountain?

- guiding people safely up the mountain and back again despite the obvious risk to themselves.

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17) Why is it so important for Sherpas to maintain climbing gear, safety and cooking equipment, and their relationship with clients?

-their reputation is on the line and word gets around, people return, and clients give them a secure income.

18) What is the search strategy for Irvine’s body based on?

-Which route Irvine might have taken, also Irvine’s body was seen once but maybe three times, by other climbers, in 1960 Chu Ching saw a body by the ridge which could only be Irvine’s, they try to put themselves in his shoes.

19) How much weight does each Sherpa carry on their backs for this mission?

- 25 kilos or 55 pounds

20) After days of searching through an area in the Death Zone in fierce weather, what is the conclusion of this year’s search?

- search this year was more precise, good team work and family, haven’t found Irvine, but they gained experience, Irvine is not in that area.

21) In a well-developed paragraph, discuss the concept of an unsung hero as it relates to a Sherpa who guides climbers up Mount Everest.