Mountain Speak

Directions: As you come across words in bold in the article “Out of the Death Zone,” ask yourself if you know them or if you need to find out what they mean. Check their meanings here. Then complete the activity on the slide that follows.

1. trek: “On May 24, 2014, Poorna began her trek through a part of the mountain known as the Death Zone.” (p. 21)
   Meaning: a slow, difficult journey made by walking

2. summit: “But it wasn’t until 1953 that two men reached the summit.” (p. 22)
   Meaning: the highest point of a mountain or a volcano

3. catastrophe: “Many feared that it was only a matter of time before catastrophe struck.” (p. 22)
   Meaning: an extremely disastrous and sudden event

4. expedition: “In the end, only two students were chosen for the Everest expedition.” (p. 23)
   Meaning: a long journey for a certain reason, like exploring

5. grit: “If they were going to climb Everest, they would need skill and grit.” (p. 23)
   Meaning: the ability to keep on doing something even if it’s very difficult

6. avalanches: “Avalanches can bury climbers.” (p. 23)
   Meaning: large amounts of snow, ice, and rocks sliding suddenly down the side of a mountain

7. surveyed: “English name, for George Everest, who surveyed India in the 1800s” (p. 23, in sidebar)
   Meaning: measured a piece of land in order to make a map
8. grueling: “But the climbing had been grueling.” (p. 24)  
   Meaning: very difficult; requiring a lot of energy

9. surreal: “It was a surreal feeling,’ Poorna says.” (p. 25)  
   Meaning: very strange and unusual, like in a dream

10. feat: “Since her Everest feat, Poorna has climbed at least six more mountains and plans to climb others.” (p. 25)  
   Meaning: an act that requires courage and skill

Directions: Fill in each empty box below with a word from the word box. Then draw arrows to make as many connections as possible between your chosen words. Along each arrow, write a sentence to describe the connection. We did the first one for you!
Think About It!

**Directions:** After reading the texts “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

1. In the first section, how does the author get you interested in reading the article?

2. According to the section “The First Climbs,” how has climbing Mount Everest changed over time?

3. How did Poorna prepare for climbing Mount Everest?
4. What arguments for Poorna not climbing Mount Everest are presented in “The Risks”?
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5. Why does it take so long to climb Mount Everest?
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6. Why did Poorna think about her parents and friends when she got close to the top?
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Continued on next page >
Think About It!, p. 3

“Mount Everest Speaks”

7. In your own words, describe the “heavy burden” that the mountain in the poem carries.

8. Why might someone describe Mount Everest as “a piece of paradise”?

Directions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of both texts. (Continue on the back if you need more space.)

9. Based on the article and the poem, what characteristics would a person need to summit Mount Everest?

10. In your opinion, is climbing Mount Everest a good idea? Would you climb it?
Think About It!

**Directions:** After reading the texts “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

### Close-Reading Questions

1. In the first section, how does the author get you interested in reading the article?
2. According to the section “The First Climbs,” how has climbing Mount Everest changed over time?
3. How did Poorna prepare for climbing Mount Everest?
4. What arguments for Poorna not climbing Mount Everest are presented in “The Risks”?
5. Why does it take so long to climb Mount Everest?
6. Why did Poorna think about her parents and friends when she got close to the top?

### “Mount Everest Speaks”

7. In your own words, describe the “heavy burden” that the mountain in the poem carries.
8. Why might someone describe Mount Everest as “a piece of paradise”?

### Critical-Thinking Questions

9. Based on the article and the poem, what characteristics would a person need to summit Mount Everest?
10. In your opinion, is climbing Mount Everest a good idea? Would you climb it?
Think About It!

Directions: After reading the paired texts “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. We’ve started the first one for you.

1. In the first section of the article “Out of the Death Zone,” what facts do you learn about Mount Everest?
   I learned that Mount Everest is . . .

2. What dangers of climbing Mount Everest are mentioned in the section “The First Climbs”?

3. How did Poorna Malavath prepare to climb Mount Everest?
4. Why are some people especially concerned about young people climbing Mount Everest?

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5. How did Poorna feel as she got closer to the top of the mountain? What details from the text support your answer?

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6. What are three things you learn about the people who climb Mount Everest from the poem “Mount Everest Speaks”?

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Directions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking question below, thinking about the meaning of both texts.

7. In your opinion, is climbing Mount Everest a good idea? Would you climb it? Use details from both texts to support your answer.

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Exploring Text Features

Directions: Answer the questions below to help you explore the illustrations, photos, captions, and other text features in the paired texts “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks.”

1. Look at the headline, subhead, and opening image on pages 20-21. How do these text features help you get interested in reading the article?

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2. Look again at the image on page 20. What does it show? How does it make you feel?

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3. Look at the image at the top of page 22. Why do you think “traffic jams” like the one in the photo could be dangerous?

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Continued on next page >
4. Look at the images and captions on page 24. How do they help you understand what climbing Mount Everest is like?

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5. Look at the sidebar “Everest by the Numbers” on page 24. How does it add to your understanding of Poorna Malavath’s impressive accomplishment?

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6. Look at what Poorna is wearing in the image at the bottom of page 25. What does it tell you about what it’s like to climb Mount Everest?

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7. Look at the image behind the poem on page 26. How does it help you figure out who or what is speaking in the poem?

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**Storyworks S-T-R-E-T-C-H:**
Imagine you are creating a sign that climbers will see before they start their trip up Mount Everest. What images and text would you use to help them prepare for their journey?

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## Putting it All Together

**Directions:** Answer the question(s) in each box below. Go back to “Out of the Death Zone” to find your information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What led Poorna Malavath to climb Mount Everest?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. How do mountain climbers prepare for a climb? Give some examples from the article.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What are the risks of climbing Mount Everest? What do climbers get out of it?</td>
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</table>
Putting it All Together, p. 2

Directions: Answer the question in each box below. Go back to “Mount Everest Speaks” to find your information.

4. How does the speaker in the poem describe mountain climbers? Give some examples from the poem.

5. Why do you think the poet writes from Mount Everest’s point of view?
### Directions:
Answer the question in each box below. Be sure to go back to BOTH the article and the poem to find your information.

6. Describe the experience of climbing Mount Everest. Give at least one example from each text.

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7. What inspires people to climb mountains? Support your answer with details from both texts.

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Continued on next page >
Directions: Now use the answers you wrote to help you respond to this writing prompt: What do the article “Out of the Death Zone” and the poem “Mount Everest Speaks” tell you about the reasons people, like Poorna Malavath, climb Mount Everest and what it takes to do so? Answer using details from both texts.

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Putting it All Together

**Directions:** Answer the question(s) in each box below. Go back to “Out of the Death Zone” to find your information. We’ve given you some hints!

1. Why did Poorna Malavath climb Mount Everest? (Hint: Look for the answer in the section “The Opportunity.”)

2. What are the risks of climbing Mount Everest? What do climbers get out of it? (Hint: Look for the answer in the sections “The Risks,” “The Expedition,” and “The Death Zone.”)
### Directions:
Answer the question in each box below. Go back to “Mount Everest Speaks” to find your information. Use the sentence starter and hint for help answering the questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. How does the speaker in the poem describe mountain climbers? Give</strong></td>
<td>The speaker says the climbers are &quot;young and old.&quot; It also says</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>some examples from the poem.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4. Why do you think the poet writes from Mount Everest’s point of</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>view? (Hint: Think about what new information you learned in the poem.)</strong></td>
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**Continued on next page >**
### Directions:
Answer the question in each box below. Be sure to go back to BOTH the article and the poem to find your information. Use the sentence starter and hint for help answering the questions.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.</strong> Describe the experience of climbing Mount Everest. Give at least one example from each text.</td>
<td>Climbing Mount Everest is</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.</strong> What inspires people to climb mountains? Support your answer with details from both texts. (Hint: Think about how Poorna felt when she reached the top.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Now use your answers above to help you answer this writing prompt: What do the article “Out of the Death Zone” and the poem “Mount Everest Speaks” tell you about the reasons people, like Poorna Malavath, climb Mount Everest and what it takes to do so? Answer using details from both texts.

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Choice Board

Directions: Choose one or more of the activities below to complete, based on the paired texts “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks” in the September 2021 issue of Storyworks.

**Interview the Climber**
Write three questions you’d like to ask Poorna Malavath. The questions can be about her training, the experience of climbing Mount Everest, or her fame after her climb. Share your questions with your classmates and, as a group, predict how Poorna might answer.

**Do a Dramatic Reading**
Record yourself reading the poem “Mount Everest Speaks.” Pay attention to the punctuation marks and line breaks as you read. Add sound effects or music to help bring the poem to life. Share your recording with your classmates.

**Learn More**
Read about other people who have climbed Mount Everest. Compare and contrast their experiences with that of Poorna Malavath.

**Respond to the Writing Prompt on Page 26:**
What do the article “Out of the Death Zone” and the poem “Mount Everest Speaks” tell you about the reasons people, like Poorna Malavath, climb Mount Everest and what it takes to do so? Answer using details from both texts.

**Pick Your Own Project!**
Come up with your own idea for a project! Include ideas from both “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks.”

**Write a Set of Paired Texts**
Write a nonfiction article about something you have achieved. Then write a poem about the same topic to share your thoughts and feelings about your experience in another way.
Check Your Understanding!

**Directions:** Read the paired texts in this issue of *Storyworks*. Then answer each question below by checking either Yes or No. Next, write a sentence starting with Yes or No. We’ve done the first one for you.

1. Is it hard to breathe high up on Mount Everest?
   - Yes [x]  
   - No [ ]  
   - Yes, it is.

2. Is Poorna Malavath the first person to climb Mount Everest?
   - Yes [ ]  
   - No [x]  

3. Is Poorna a strong athlete?
   - Yes [ ]  
   - No [x]  

4. Do Sherpa guides help climbers on Mount Everest?
   - Yes [ ]  
   - No [x]  

**Directions:** Complete each sentence below, using details from the article. We’ve done the first one for you.

5. The first two people to climb Mount Everest were . . .
   - Tenzing Norgay, from Nepal, and Edmund Hillary, from New Zealand.

6. To prepare to climb Mount Everest, Poorna . . .

7. Some people worry about teenagers climbing Mount Everest because . . .

8. Poorna is the youngest . . .

Continued on next page >
Check Your Understanding!, p. 2

Directions: Answer each question below about the poem “Mount Everest Speaks.” Or talk about the questions with a classmate or your teacher.

9. Read lines 3 and 4 in the poem. Find a picture in the article that shows what the lines are about. What page is the picture on? (Or, if you’re reading online, what section is it in?)

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10. Read line 10 in the poem. What do you think another word for lugging is?

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“Out of the Death Zone” Quiz

Directions: Read the paired texts “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks” in the September 2021 issue of Storyworks. Then circle the letter next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What does the word trek mean in the sentence “On May 24, 2014, Poorna began her trek through the Death Zone”?
   A. training
   B. search
   C. journey
   D. return

2. Which danger does the photograph on page 22 show?
   A. thin air
   B. piles of trash
   C. a blizzard
   D. people waiting in line

3. Which line supports the idea that Poorna thought Everest was worth the climb?
   A. “... they had oxygen tanks to help them breathe.”
   B. “... Poorna has climbed at least six more mountains. She plans to climb others.”
   C. “At last, she stepped onto the summit.”
   D. “Poorna thought about her family and friends back home.”

4. Who is the speaker in the poem “Mount Everest Speaks”?
   A. Poorna Malavath
   B. a Sherpa guide
   C. snow on a mountain
   D. Mount Everest

5. Which line BEST supports your answer to question 4?
   A. “of climbers young and old”
   B. “Dozens of them, hundreds of them”
   C. “from my slopes and ledges”
   D. “marking camps and countries”

6. Both “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks” describe climbing Mount Everest as ________.
   A. easy and exciting
   B. lonely and dangerous
   C. beautiful but impossible
   D. difficult but inspiring
Name: ___________________________________________ Date: __________________

**Constructed-Response Questions**

**Directions:** Write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the article and poem.

7. In your opinion, should young people be allowed to climb Mount Everest? Use details from “Out of the Death Zone” to support your answer.

8. In what ways is climbing Mount Everest dangerous? In what ways is it an incredible experience? Support your answer with details from both texts.
“Out of the Death Zone” Quiz

Directions: Read the paired texts “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks” in the September 2021 issue of Storyworks. Then circle the letter next to the best answer for each question below.

1. How was Poorna Malavath brave in the Death Zone?
   A. She kept climbing when she felt dizzy.
   B. She continued her trek after a fall.
   C. She climbed over a crack alone.
   D. She helped someone onto the summit.

2. Which line BEST supports your answer to question 2?
   A. “At one point, the climbers had to cross over a crevasse . . .”
   B. “They roped themselves together and stepped out into the freezing air.”
   C. “‘Keep going,’ she told herself.”
   D. “Poorna thought about her family . . .”

3. Look at the photograph on page 22. Which detail from the article does it best support?
   A. “The air is so thin, there isn’t enough oxygen to breathe.”
   B. “Trash was piling up on Everest.”
   C. “There were so many climbers that traffic jams were common.”
   D. “A sudden blizzard hit near the summit.”

4. What does the word surreal mean in this passage: “She gazed around her in awe. ‘It was a surreal feeling,’ Poorna says.”
   A. uncomfortable  C. dreamlike
   B. normal  D. relaxed

5. Who is the speaker in the poem “Mount Everest Speaks”?
   A. Poorna Malavath
   B. a Sherpa guide
   C. snow on a mountain
   D. Mount Everest

6. What does the speaker feel responsible for?
   A. nature
   B. climbing equipment
   C. mountain climbers
   D. camps and countries

7. Which line BEST supports your answer to question 6?
   A. “It is a heavy burden I carry . . . watching a human chain of climbers . . .”
   B. “. . . lugging tents and tools, ropes and cords . . .”
   C. “. . . a marvel of languages across snow and ice . . .”
   D. “. . . what is left for me is silence and footprints . . .”

8. Both “Out of the Death Zone” and “Mount Everest Speaks” describe climbing Mount Everest as ________.
   A. beautiful yet impossible
   B. difficult yet inspiring
   C. easy and exciting
   D. lonely and dangerous
Name: ____________________________ Date: ________________

**Constructed-Response Questions**

**Directions:** Write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the article and poem.

9. In your opinion, should young people be allowed to climb Mount Everest? Use details from “Out of the Death Zone” to support your answer.

10. In what ways is climbing Mount Everest dangerous? In what ways is it an incredible experience? Support your answer with details from both texts.