Read the short story and answer each question.

Two Views of Climbing Mount Everest

A Climber's Story

By Jordan Kim, age 12

Last year, my dad and I climbed to Everest Base Camp. I'll never forget how hard it was to breathe in the thin air and how cold it got at night. But I also remember how beautiful the mountains were—white peaks glowing under the sun, and colorful flags waving in the wind.

The journey wasn't easy. We had to hike for days, crossing swinging bridges and narrow trails. But reaching Base Camp felt like standing on top of the world. Even though we didn't climb to the summit, I was proud. I learned that I'm stronger than I thought.

The Risks of Everest

From "The World's Tallest Mountains" – Science Explorers Magazine

Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, is over 29,000 feet high. Thousands of climbers attempt to reach the summit each year, but many face serious risks. The mountain's thin air can cause altitude sickness, and sudden weather changes can make climbing extremely dangerous.

In recent years, some experts have raised concerns about overcrowding on the mountain. Too many people climbing at once can cause traffic jams near the summit, increasing the danger. Others worry about the impact on the environment and the local Sherpa communities who guide tourists up the mountain.

Name: _____

Two Views of Climbing Mount Everest

1. What is the main difference between the two texts?

  A.   Text 1 shares a personal experience with Everest, while Text 2 presents facts and concerns about the risks of climbing it.

  B.   Both texts are stories about reaching the summit of Mount Everest.

  C.   Text 1 explains how Everest was discovered, while Text 2 shares a poem about it.

  D.   Both texts describe Everest using only scientific data.

2. How do the points of view differ between the texts?

  A.   Text 1 is from a young climber's emotional and personal perspective, while Text 2 gives a factual and cautious viewpoint.

  B.   Text 1 focuses on dangers, while Text 2 is a celebration of mountain climbing.

  C.   Text 1 is about the Sherpa community, and Text 2 is about earthquakes.

  D.   They are both written in the same style and tone.

3. Fill in the blank:

The first text focuses on a personal _____, while the second gives facts and expert concerns.

4. What are some similarities and differences between the information in the two texts?

_____

_____

_____

5. Why do you think the second author chose to focus on the risks and environmental effects of Everest?

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Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: S
Lexile Level: 850L-1000L
Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year
Genre: Informational – Personal Narrative & Expository

Introducing the Text

"These two short texts explore the same topic—climbing Mount Everest—but from different points of view. One is a personal reflection, and the other is an informational article. Students will learn how different types of writing can shape how we understand the same subject."

Vocabulary: altitude, summit, personal narrative, perspective, Sherpa

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about Mount Everest?
2. Why might someone want to climb the world's tallest mountain?
3. How might different people view the same adventure in different ways?

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What emotions does the first writer share about their journey?
2. What facts does the second text give about dangers and risks?
3. How do the two styles of writing affect the tone of each piece?

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the two texts present the topic of Mount Everest differently?
2. Why is it important to read multiple perspectives about the same topic?
3. How does understanding both texts help you form your own opinion?

Activity Idea

Have students write their own two-paragraph comparison. In the first paragraph, describe the different points of view from the two texts. In the second, explain which perspective they found more convincing or engaging and why.