



**CLASS - VI ENGLISH NOTES SEPTEMBER**

**5. Daring to Dream Big**

**I. ERC:**

1. “It was with this intention that she boarded the Padmavat Express on that fateful day and squeezing herself through the surging crowd, found a corner seat for herself in the general compartment.”

a) **Who is she in these lines?**

She is Arunima Sinha.

b) **Where was she going and with what intention?**

She was travelling to Delhi from Lucknow for an interview for a job with the CISF.

c) **Why is the day described as 'fateful'?**

It is described as a 'fateful' day because the events that followed had a lasting effect on Arunima's destiny, changing her life forever.

d) **Which word in the above lines means 'a sudden increase'?**

surging

2. “And this was just the beginning of her ordeal. All night long, trains came and went-49 of them but her agonised screams fell on deaf ears.”

a) **Where was the person at this point of time?**

She was lying on a railway track.

b) **What had happened to her?**

She had been thrown off the Padmavat Express by a gang of goons who wanted her gold jewellery.

c) **Why was she in agony?**

She was in agony because she had been injured when she was pushed off the train onto the tracks. She was hit by a train coming from the opposite side and then another train went over her leg. No one had come to her rescue.

d) **What happened immediately after this?**

In the morning, she was spotted by some people and then she was sent to a hospital in Bareilly where her leg had to be amputated below the knee.

3. "But when she voiced her plan to people, they either laughed it off or declared that she was not in the proper frame of mind because of what she'd been through."

a) Who is she?

She is Arunima Sinha.

b) What was her plan?

Her plan was to get well quickly and climb Mount Everest.

c) Why did people laugh at it?

People laughed at her plan because they thought it would be impossible for her to achieve that feat with her disability.

d) What had she been through?

She had been through a terrible accident in which she lost her leg and a rod had to be inserted in the other. She had suffered a lot of pain and agony.

## II. Short Answers:

1. Why did Arunima board the Padmavat Express on that particular day?

Arunima had been looking for a job for some time before she got a call from the CISF. She was overjoyed, but they had got her date of birth wrong. She decided to go to Delhi to get the mistake corrected so that her chances at getting the job would improve. That is why she was on the train to Delhi that day.

2. What happened a while later as she sat in a corner seat?

A little while after she found a corner seat for herself in the general compartment, there was a commotion. Some hooligans stood before her and demanded her gold chain, which was a gift from her mother.

3. Why did the men throw Arunima out of the train?

Arunima, being a brave girl, fought back and refused to give up her chain. She kicked and punched them one by one as they came towards her. As they were unable to control her, they picked her up and threw her off the train.

4. Describe what happened to Arunima after she was flung on the tracks

As she was thrown off the train, an oncoming train hit her and she was flung on the tracks. Another train ran over her leg before she could save it. She lay there all night long in pain and agony as 49 trains passed that way, but none heard her screams. Rats were attracted to her oozing wounds. There was nothing she could do but to shoo them away.

5. When was she discovered and where was she taken?

After lying on the track all night long, in pain, Arunima was discovered by some people only in the morning. From then on her road to recovery and life started. She was taken to a hospital in Bareilly.

**6. What did the doctors decide to do with her leg?**

Her left leg was so badly wounded that the doctors in the hospital decided to amputate her left leg below the knee. This was done without anaesthesia.

**7. Why was Arunima taken to AIIMS?**

Once she was in hospital, her case was written about in the media and soon the government stepped in to help her. That is how she was shifted to the AIIMS in Delhi for better treatment.

**8. What decision did Arunima take while still at hospital?**

A rod had been inserted in her right leg to keep all the bones together. As she lay in the AIIMS hospital bed, she made a decision which seemed an impossible one at that time. She made up her mind to climb Mount Everest!

**9. Describe the steps she took to prepare for the Everest climb.**

Once she had made up her mind, Arunima met Bachendri Pal soon after being discharged from hospital. Bachendri Pal encouraged her to go ahead with her dream and did not laugh at her. She then joined the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering for a basic course which was followed by 18 months of tough practice.

**10. How long did it take Arunima to reach the summit of Everest and what did she do once there?**

It took Arunima 52 days to reach the summit of Mt Everest on May 21, 2013 at around 10.55 a.m. She had a message written to God wrapped in a cloth which she pressed in the snow. She took pictures and videos of her achievement as proof.

**III. Long Answers:**

**1. There were several moments in her life when Arunima would have broken down, had she been like an ordinary person. Which were these moments?**

Arunima has more strength and courage than most people. There were many occasions when she would have just given up and broken down if she did not have the courage and mental strength. The first instance was when she was attacked by the goons—instead of quietly giving them what they wanted, she chose to fight back. Then, when she lay injured on the track all night long in pain, any other person would have collapsed but being a fighter, she tolerated all of it and survived the long night till she was discovered. Then to undergo an amputation without anaesthesia is something that very few people can tolerate. But she did go through that experience as well. Later, when she had made up her mind to scale Mount Everest, she underwent a rigorous training and practice which ordinary people would not have been able to go through.

**2. Which traits would you associate with Arunima's character? Make a list giving examples for each.**

Arunima's actions show the following traits:

a) determination: This is proved by her action of not giving in to her attackers on the train and in her decision to climb Mount Everest.

b) courage: This is proved by the way she faced her attackers and then went through an amputation of a leg without anaesthesia. Later she went through very harsh training and practice despite her disability.

c) mental strength: It is her mental strength that pushed her to do things that seemed impossible, like climbing Mount Everest.

**3. Often we observe that when someone is being bullied or troubled in public, no one steps forward to help the person. Why do you think this happens? Is it the right thing to do? What are your views?**

Personal response—answers will vary. Sample answer: This probably happens because people are afraid of bullies and goons. Since these people are cruel and have no sensitivity towards their fellow human beings, they are capable of doing anything to anyone. So the public is scared for their own lives as well.

I certainly do not think this is the right thing to do because if the public doesn't react and stop such people, violence will take over our society and thugs and goons will have a say. We cannot allow that to happen. If there are bad human beings, there are many good human beings too. If today one person is in trouble, then tomorrow one of us or our friends or families can also become victims of these kind of hooligans. If everyone gets together then such people can be defeated.