

The Man Who Bought a Mountain

“Everyone: stick together, look out for each other and stay on the trail, please. The path is really rocky and steep. It’s mostly uphill from here – but I suppose you’d all guessed that! As the elders say, the longest journey begins with a single step.”

Yash finished his speech and smiled at the weather-beaten faces looking back at him. He had spoken loudly and clearly to the group of nine men and women, most of whom shuffled from foot to foot, adjusting huge rucksacks as they listened.

“Jeez! How old is this kid, eleven?” muttered one man towards the back.

“Actually, I’m twelve.” Yash gritted his teeth.

Twelve years living at the base of this mountain, he thought to himself, compared with the twelve hours since you got off the plane.

A wise voice then echoed in his head.

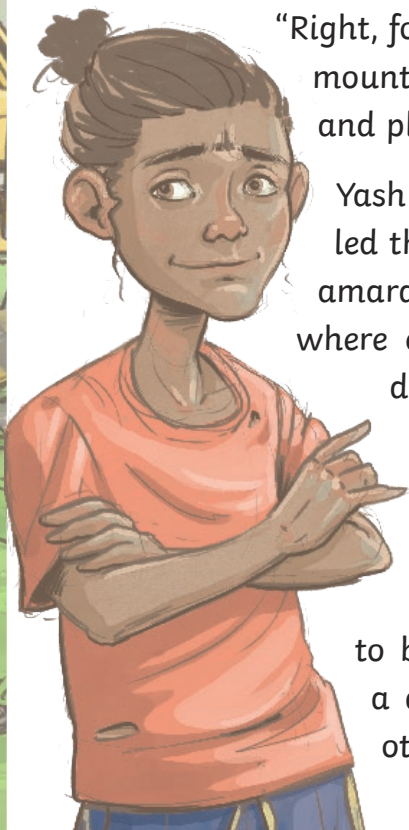
Always be welcoming to friends but be even more welcoming to visitors.

He forced another smile and then fastened his rarely brushed brown hair into a messy knot with a plain elasticated band which he took from his wrist.

“Right, follow me. It’s a few hours to the base camp. The Jagurdwa mountain is home to thousands of different species of animals and plants...”

Yash began his ritual of information and storytelling as he led the trek. He weaved his familiar route through the fields of amaranth crops, up a steep slope and past the Spring of Hope, where clear, cool ground water pooled gently before tumbling down the mountain rocks.

The area around the Spring of Hope always reminded him how much new life came from even the tiniest nooks and crannies on the vast Jagurdwa mountain. Cracks and crevices along the side of the steep path were home to beetles and spiders and, behind the cascading waterfall, a damp, shallow cave served as a perfect hiding place for other small creatures who preferred the darkness. The river



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that cascaded from here with its streams and pools provided homes for fish and other creatures, and food for people.

Some visitors squealed or jumped in fright at the sight of the many animal species living on its slopes, but Yash loved to see them and took pleasure in trying to identify one set of distinguishing features from another. He knew that some animals lived only in this mountain region and nowhere else.



This is an extract from the Twinkl Originals story **'The Man Who Bought a Mountain'**.

Questions

1. Look at the first paragraph.

Which of these words are used to describe the path? Tick **three**.

- rocky steep dangerous
 damp shallow uphill

2. How old is Yash?

3. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows that Yash did not brush his hair regularly.

4. Number the events of Yash's guided expedition (1-4), to show the order in which they occurred. The first one has been done for you.

- He went up a steep slope.
 1 Yash began his storytelling.
 He went past the Spring of Hope.
 He went through the amaranth crop fields.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning 'The area around the Spring of Hope...'.
Which of these mountain features are mentioned in this paragraph?

	Mentioned	Not mentioned
deep valley		
cascading waterfall		
snowy summit		
shallow cave		

6. How did Yash and some visitors differ in their reaction to many of the animal species?

7. Using evidence from the whole text, do you think that Yash is a kind character?
Explain your answer.

Yes

No

Answers

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Which of these words are used to describe the path? Tick **three**.

- rocky** **steep** dangerous
 damp shallow **uphill**

2. How old is Yash?

twelve years old

3. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows that Yash did not brush his hair regularly.

rarely

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Which of these mountain features are mentioned in this paragraph?

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deep valley		✓
cascading waterfall	✓	
snowy summit		✓
shallow cave	✓	

6. How did Yash and some visitors differ in their reaction to many of the animal species?

Accept an explanation that highlights how Yash liked them and enjoyed identifying them while some visitors were afraid as they 'squealed or jumped in fright'.

7. Using evidence from the whole text, do you think that Yash is a kind character?
Explain your answer.

Yes

No

Accept either yes or no as long as a full explanation is given with reference to the text, e.g.

- I think that Yash is kind because he is welcoming to the visitors and tries to help them by speaking loudly and clearly. He also doesn't react when one of the visitors is rude to him.

- I think that Yash is unkind because he gritted his teeth and had to force a smile. This shows that he didn't really want to help the visitors up the mountain.