



Visual Impairment: Touch the Top of the World (Book)

Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class Time

Synopsis

In this memoir, mountain climber Erik Weihenmayer begins by entertaining the reader with humorous insights about his blindness as well as tales about his childhood and adolescent years. However, the second half of the book leaves the reader spellbound as Erik chronicles his journey towards fulfilling every mountain climber's dream: reaching the summits of the world's seven highest mountains.

Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class:

Title: Touch the Top of the World: A Blind Man's Journey to Climb Farther than the Eye Can See (2001)

Author: Erik Weihenmayer

Publisher: Penguin Group • New York

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. How did Erik lose his sight? How old was he?
2. How did he get interested in mountain climbing?
3. What was Erik's vocation before he started climbing full time?
4. What lesson did Erik learn from his student Guru?
5. How did Erik incorporate the lesson he learned from Guru in his classroom?
6. In his memoir, Erik drives home issues regarding society's low expectations for those with disabilities. Name some of the situations in Erik's life that seem to reflect this.
7. Do you think he would have continued climbing if he had lost his sight after he became a mountain climber? Why or why not?
8. If you had been the guide for these climbs, would you have wanted Erik along? Why or why not?



The contents of this case study were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H325F060003. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Shedeh Hajghasemali.