

TEXT

I quarrelled with my mother and ran away to join my father, i travelled on the roof of a train all the way to KAZAKHISTAN. I was fifteen. I wanted to become a man and on my own feet. At that time my father was working as a chief of a geological expedition.

When i arrived, i agreed with him not to let the other know that i was his son “otherwise you will be favoured. And that is not going to make a man of you, he said.

So i joined the expedition as a labourer.

Among many other things, i learned to break the ground with a pick, extract selected pieces of rock with a mallet, (.....) and to light a fire in driving rain. But yet i couldn't swim. Nobody knew that, and i lived in fear of being found out and disgraced.

One day i was walking with a geologist along a narrow mountain path above a noisy stream. We both carried knapsacks filled with specimens of rocks. Suddenly the geologist took false step and the ground gave way under his feet. He tried to catch hold of a bush, missed it, and fell head long from the steep bank, down into the river. Within seconds i saw him trashing about in the foaming water, struggling to keep a float, but his knapsack was dragging him down.

I flung mine off my shoulders, whipped my knife in one hand, and jumped in. I swam hard up to the geologist without realising, cut the straps of his knapsack, and we both scrambled ashore... IT was only then that i remembered i didn't know how to swim.

And from that day on, i have known that the best way of learning something is to take a leap into the unknown without looking back. That way, you learn or perish.

Adapted from a precocious autobiography

I. COMPREHENSION 8pts

A. Give a Suitable Title to the Text

B. Say if the following sentences are true or false. Justify your answer by quoting the text

1. Yevgueny's father was one of the labourers of the expedition.
2. The boy wasn't ashamed of not knowing how to swim.
3. According to the author, the best way to learn is to attend lessons with a teacher assisting.

C. MATCH THE WORDS IN COLUMN A TO THEIR SYNONYMS IN COLUMN B

4. Disgraced	a. threw
5. stream	b. die
6. flung	c. pull
7. perish	d. discovered
8. drag	e. river
	f. dishonoured
	g. foam

D. Choose a, b, or c to complete the following sentences.

10. Yevgueny joined the expedition

- a) In order to work and earn some money
- b) Because he wanted to learn things of life
- c) Because he couldn't live without his father

11. The boy worked as a labourer in the expedition

- a) Because his father hadn't recognized him
- b) Because the other labourers didn't like him
- c) In order not to be favoured by others

E. Reference:

What do the following words refer to

He (he tried to catch hold of a bush...)

We (we both carried knapsacks)

II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE: 6PTS

Complete the dialogue between Yevgueny and an employer of the expedition

Employer – Good morning

Yevgueny-.....

Employer-here?

Yevgueny- Because i quarrelled with my mother and i decided to join my father

Employer-you should call your mum to apologize,.....?

Yevgueny- I think that, i love her so much

Employer- If i were you , i (to send) her a letter.

Yevgueny- Good idea

Employer-.....do you learn in the expedition?

Yevgueny- so many things

Employer-have you been here?

Yevgueny- i' ve been here since last month.

Employer- bye

Yevgueny- bye

III- WRITING: Choose on topic and write at least 10 lines

TOPIC 1: your teacher organised an excursion with you in a geological area .One of your classmate doesn't want to go you try to convince him or her .Write a conversation.

TOPIC 2: Write a letter to your pen friend telling him or her a geological area (megalithic site of saloum, water fall ...) you have visited