

## In Focus 1 - Speed Reading Unit 3

### Junko Tabei

Junko Tabei was born in a city in Japan called Miharu Machi. She grew up in a time when many people thought that only boys could do exciting things like climbing mountains. But Junko didn't care. She wanted to climb mountains too! Junko's parents encouraged her to follow her dreams. When Junko was still young, she started climbing small mountains with her family. She loved the feeling of being on top of a mountain and looking down at the world below. She felt free and happy.

When Junko grew up, she became an editor. But she never forgot her love for climbing. She joined a club of people who loved climbing mountains. They went on trips together and climbed bigger and bigger mountains. Junko was always the only girl in the group, but she didn't mind. She was happy to be with people who shared her dreams.

Many climbers wanted to climb to the top of the world's tallest mountain, Everest. But it was very hard to climb. Many people tried, but they couldn't make it. Junko decided that she would try. She had climbed many mountains before, but Everest was the biggest and hardest one. Junko trained for many years to get ready. She climbed smaller mountains and got stronger. She joined a group of people who also wanted to climb Everest. They all practiced together and helped each other.

In 1975, they went to Everest to climb it. It was very far away, and they had to walk for many days to get there. They had to carry all their food, clothes, and other things with them. It was very heavy. When they got to Everest, they started to climb. It was very hard. They had to climb up a long hill. The air was thin, and it was hard to breathe. It was also very cold. Some people got sick and had to go back. But Junko didn't give up. She kept going, step by step. She took her time. She rested when she needed to.

Finally, on May 16, 1975, Junko made it to the top of Everest! She was the first woman ever to do it! She was very happy and proud of herself. She showed the world that women could do anything men could do. Junko's climb was a big deal. It was in the news all over the world. Many people were excited by what she did. She became a hero to many people, especially women and girls. Junko didn't stop there. She climbed many more mountains after that. She wanted to show that anyone could do anything if they worked hard and never gave up.

As she got older, she wrote several books and was active in the environmental movement. Sadly, Junko Tabei passed away in October 2016, but her amazing story lives on. She will always be remembered as a strong woman who showed the world that anything is possible if you believe in yourself, work hard, and never give up.

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When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

**Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.**

1. Who was Junko Tabei?
  - A) A teacher in Japan
  - B) The first woman to climb Mount Everest
  - C) A professional athlete
  - D) A mountain guide
  
2. Where was Junko born?
  - A) Tokyo
  - B) Kyoto
  - C) Miharu
  - D) Sapporo
  
3. What did many people believe about girls and mountain climbing during Junko's childhood?
  - A) Only boys could do exciting things like climbing mountains.
  - B) Girls could climb better than boys.
  - C) Girls were encouraged to climb mountains.
  - D) There was no difference between boys and girls in climbing.
  
4. What profession did Junko pursue before becoming famous for her climbing?
  - A) Doctor
  - B) Editor
  - C) Engineer
  - D) Lawyer
  
5. In what year did Junko reach the summit of Mount Everest?
  - A) 1969
  - B) 1972
  - C) 1975
  - D) 1980
  
6. What was significant about Junko's climb to Everest?
  - A) She was the first person ever to climb it.
  - B) She climbed it without any equipment.
  - C) She set a record for the fastest climb.
  - D) It was in the news all over the world.
  
7. How did Junko prepare for her climb to Everest?
  - A) By reading books
  - B) By training and climbing smaller mountains
  - C) By taking a helicopter
  - D) By watching videos of other climbers
  
8. What challenges did Junko face on her climb to Everest?
  - A) Easy paths and warm weather
  - B) Thick forests and wild animals
  - C) Thin air and cold temperatures
  - D) Crowded trails and pollution
  
9. What message did Junko's success convey to the world?
  - A) Women could do anything men could do.
  - B) Climbing mountains is too dangerous.
  - C) Everest is the only mountain worth climbing.
  - D) Only professionals should climb mountains.
  
10. Did Junko continue climbing after Everest?
  - A) Yes, she climbed many more mountains.
  - B) No, she retired immediately.
  - C) She became a coach instead.
  - D) She only climbed Everest.