



Grade IX

Lesson 8. Reach for the Top (Part - 2)

- *Maria Sharapova*

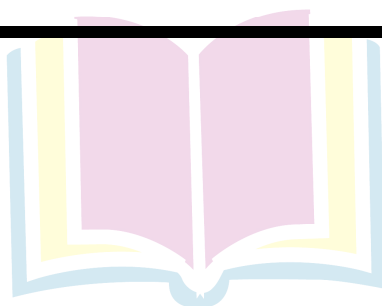
Prose

### Soul of the Chapter

Maria Sharapova reached the top position of women's tennis on August 22, 2005 at the age of eighteen. She was poor. She was born in Siberia, Russia. Her father sent her to the United States for training at the age of nine. She had to stay alone as her mother could not accompany her due to visa problems. Separation from her mother was a great sacrifice for a nine-year-old girl. But she was determined to achieve her goal at any cost.

She had to follow a strict schedule. She used to go to bed at 8 p.m. but the other senior players used to wake her up at 11 p.m. and order her to clean the room. It made her more determined and stronger. She knew what she wanted. It was her strong determination and hard work that put her on the top of the world.

Maria spent her prime time in the U.S.A. but she is proud of being a Russian. She is a teenage sensation. She takes interest in fashion, singing and dancing. She loves reading novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. Becoming number one in the world is the dream that keeps her going on.



Next Generation School





## NCERT Questions

### Thinking About the Text

I. Working in small groups of 4-5 students, go back over the two passages on Santosh Yadav and Mariaa Sharapova and complete the table given below with relevant phrases or sentences.

| Points of Comparison/Contrast                    | Santosh Yadav | Maria Saharapova |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Their humble beginning                        |               |                  |
| 2. Their parents' approach                       |               |                  |
| 3. Their will power and strong desire to succeed |               |                  |
| 4. Evidence of their mental toughness            |               |                  |
| 5. Their patriotism                              |               |                  |

| Points of Comparison/Contrast | Santosh Yadav   | Maria Saharapova  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Their humble beginning     | - "She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari District in Haryana."   | - "The Siberian born teenager"  |
| 2. Their parents' approach    | - "In line with the prevailing custom in the family, Santosh had to make do with the local village school."<br>- "At sixteen, most of the girls in her village used to get married. Santosh was also under pressure from her parents to do the same." | - "her father slowly getting used to her urge"<br>-"She was packed off to train in the United States."<br>- "Trip to Florida with her father Yuri launched her on the path to success and stardom." |



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Her parents refused to pay for her education"</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "My father was working as much as he could to keep my tennis-training going."</li> </ul>   |
| <p>3. Their will power and strong desire to succeed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Wishing always to study 'a bit more'"</li> <li>- "Her urge for more education"</li> <li>- "She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi."</li> <li>- "She saved money and enrolled in a course at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering."</li> <li>- "I headed straight for the training."</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough."</li> <li>- "Unwavering desire to succeed and readiness to sacrifice"</li> <li>- "I work hard at what I do."</li> <li>- "The most important thing is to become number one in the world. That's the dream that kept me going."</li> </ul> |
| <p>4. Evidence of their mental toughness</p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "She began living life in her own terms from the start."</li> <li>- "From the very beginning I was quite determined that if I chose a correct and a rational path, the others around me had to change, not me."</li> <li>- "She politely informed them of her plans to earn</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Santosh went on an expedition every year."</li> <li>- "An amazing mental toughness"</li> <li>- "Mental strength impressed her seniors"</li> <li>- I learnt how to take care of myself. I never thought of quitting because I knew what I wanted."</li> <li>- "I would have put up with</li> </ul>                                 |

|                     |  |   |
|---------------------|--|---|
|                     | money by working part time to pay her school fees."  | much more humiliation and insults than that to steadfastly pursue my dream."  |
| 5. Their patriotism | - "Then I unfurled the Indian tricolour and held it aloft on the roof of the world. The feeling is indescribable. The Indian flag was flying on top of the world. It was truly a spiritual moment. I felt proud as an Indian." | - "I'm Russian. It's true that the U.S.A. is a big part of my life. But I have Russian citizenship. My blood is totally Russian. I will play he Olympics for Russia if they want me." |

### Think About Language

Look at the following sentences. They each have two clauses, or two parts each with their own subject and verb or verb phrase. Often, one part (italicised) tells us when or why something happened.

- **I reached the market when most of the shops had closed.** (Tells us when I reached.)
- **When Rahul Dravid walked back towards the pavilion, everyone stood up.** (Tells us when everyone stood up.)
- **The telephone rang and Ganga picked it up.** (Tells us what happened next.)
- **Gunjan has been with us ever since the school began.** (Tells us for how long he has been with us.)



**I. Identify the two parts in the sentences below by underlining the part that gives us the information in brackets.**

**1. Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts.**

**(Contrasts her dress with that of others)**

Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts.

**2. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi.**

**(Tells us what happened after the first action.)**

She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi.

**3. She decided to fight the system when the right moment arrived.**

**(Tells us when she was going to fight the system.)**

She decided to fight the system when the right moment arrived.

**4. Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States. (Tells us when Maria was sent to the U.S.A.)**

Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States.

**II. Now rewrite the pairs of sentences given below as one sentence.**

**1. Grandfather told me about the old days. All books were printed on paper then.**

Grandfather told me about the old days when all books were printed on paper.

**2. What do you do after you finish the book? Perhaps you just throw it away.**

After finishing the book, perhaps you just throw it away.

**3. He gave the little girl an apple. He took the computer apart.**

He gave the little girl an apple and took the computer apart.

**4. You have nothing. That makes you very determined.**

Having nothing makes you very determined.

**5. I never thought of quitting. I knew what I wanted.**

I never thought of quitting as I knew what I wanted.





## NCERT Workbook Questions

1. Suggest a word for each sentence/phrase correctly. Refer to the chapter 'Reach for the Top, Part I' given in your textbook, Beehive. The paragraph numbers where these words are used, are given in brackets.
- a. A state of happiness and satisfaction. \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
Contentment
- b. An action or way of behaving that is usual in tradition. \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
Custom
- c. A word or statement that expresses agreement or confirmation. \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
Affirmative
- d. The ability to withstand hardship or adversity. \_\_\_\_\_ (7)  
Resistance
- e. Final stage of something you've been working towards. \_\_\_\_\_ (7)  
Culmination
- 

## Solved Question Bank

### Reference-to-Context Questions

Q. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States. That trip to Florida with her father Yuri launched her on the path to success and stardom. But, it also required a heart-wrenching two-year separation from her mother, Yelena.
- a. Before Maria even turned ten, she was sent to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Florida/the United States
- b. She went to Florida with her \_\_\_\_\_.  
Father
- c. Little Maria was too sad as she had to spend two year's separation from her mother.  
True/False  
True





d. The synonym of 'extremely sad' in the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

'Heart-wrenching'

2. "I used to be so lonely," Maria Sharapova recalls, "I missed my mother terribly, my father was working as much as he could to keep my tennis-training going. So, he couldn't see me either."

"Because I was so young, I used to go to bed at 8 p.m. The other tennis pupils would come in at 11 p.m. and wake me up and order me to tidy up the room and clean it."

a. Maria's father couldn't meet her as he was \_\_\_\_\_ most of the time to meet the expenses for her \_\_\_\_\_.

Working, tennis-training

b. The other students who would come at 11 p.m., would \_\_\_\_\_, ordering her to clean the room.

Wake her up

c. Being young, Maria used to sleep at 8 p.m. True/False

True

d. The opposite of word 'tidy' is \_\_\_\_\_.

Untidy

3. "Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough. I learnt how to take care of myself. I never thought of quitting because I knew what I wanted. When you come from nothing and you have nothing, then it makes you very hungry and determined.

a. Tough situations made Maria \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Determined, mentally tough

b. She never thought of leaving the game because she very well know what \_\_\_\_\_.

She wanted

c. When a person has nothing he craves and becomes determined to not get anything in life. True/False

False



d. 'I never thought of quitting' in the above passage implies \_\_\_\_\_.

Maria's iron determination and confidence

4. Though Maria Sharapova speaks with a pronounced American accent, she proudly parades her Russian nationality. Clearing all doubts, she says, "I'm Russian. It's true that the US is a big part of my life. But, I have Russian citizenship. My blood is totally Russian. I will play the Olympics for Russia if they want me."

a. Maria Sharapova lived in the United States but was a true \_\_\_\_\_ by heart.

Russia

b. Maria spoke in \_\_\_\_\_.

An American accent

c. Maria got American citizenship soon. True/False

False

d. 'Something very noticeable' means the same as \_\_\_\_\_ in the above passage.

'Pronounced'

5. Like any number of teenaged sensations, Maria Sharapova lists fashion, singing and dancing as her hobbies. She loves reading the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. Her fondness for sophisticated evening gowns appears at odds with her love of pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks.

a. Maria's most liked author is \_\_\_\_\_.

Arthur Conan Doyle

b. Maria loves eating \_\_\_\_\_.

Pancakes with chocolate spread

c. Maria has liking for stylist evening gowns. True/False

True

d. \_\_\_\_\_ in the above passage means 'containing bubbles of gas'.

'Fizzy'



## Short Answer Type Questions

### 1. What is the most significant achievement of Maria Sharapova so far?

Maria Sharapova's first major achievement was to win the women's singles crown at Wimbledon in the year 2004. Another significant achievement of Maria was on 22 August 2005 when she reached the number one position in the world women tennis.

### 2. How did Maria's father contribute to the success of Maria?

Maria was a Russian girl. Her father Yuri contributed significantly in shaping her future. He managed her training in the United States. He took her from Russia to Florida, the United States. He worked hard to earn money to make Maria continue her training.

### 3. How was Maria treated by her fellow students at Florida?

Maria was the youngest trainee. She was just nine years old. She would go to her bed at 8 p.m. but her seniors would return at 11 p.m. They used to wake her up and force her to do their work. She had to clean the room for them. She was insulted by them.

### 4. How did Maria react to humiliation and insults she faced during her training at Florida, the United States?

Maria was the youngest trainee. She was frequently ill-treated and humiliated by her seniors. But she was never depressed. She became more determined and mentally tough. She learnt how to adjust herself in an adverse situation.

### 5. What was the secret of Maria's success?

Strong determination and mental toughness were the secret of Maria's success. She was highly competitive and worked hard at whatever she did. She was never depressed. All her adverse conditions made her more alert and mentally sound.

### 6. What shows that Maria was proud of being a Russian?

Maria Sharapova is a Russian. She spent most of her time in the United States. She speaks with a pronounced American accent but she feels proud of being a Russian. She declared that she was ready to represent Russia in Olympics.



## 7. What are, other than tennis, Maria's likings?

Maria Sharapova spent most of her time in playing tennis. But she has some other likings too. Her hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing. She is fond of wearing pretty evening gowns. She likes pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks.

### Long Answer Type Questions

#### 1. Describe Maria Sharapova's rapid ascent to number one position in tennis. What do you learn from her life?

Maria Sharapova is a Russian. She belonged to a poor family of Siberia. She was just nine years old when her father took her to Florida for training in tennis. Her mother could not come with her because of some visa problems. She was alone. She shared her room with other pupils who were older to her. She was the only non-American student and had to bear the insults and humiliations. She was never depressed but all the more determined. Her mental toughness and physical strength helped her reach the top at the age of eighteen. Maria Sharapova is an inspiring personality. She teaches us that success comes with sacrifices and hard work. If one is ready to sacrifice the luxuries of life in the beginning, one is sure to reap the fruit of hard work. Had she not sacrificed the pleasure of living with her family, she would not have succeeded in her life.

#### 2. It is the attitude towards goal and not the money that matters. Do you agree? How did Sharapova prove it?

Maria Sharapova reached the number one position in women's tennis at the age of eighteen. She won fame and riches through tennis. She became the teenagers' idol. She wears gaudy and fantastic clothes. Like other teenagers, she loves fashion, dancing and singing. But she is not complacent. She thinks tennis as both a business and a sport. Monetary gains motivate her but she considers being number one is the world more important than anything else. Success has not made her arrogant. She is a true patriot. She is still working hard to retain her position. One learns from her





life that success should not make one arrogant if one wants to remain on the top. Winning a trophy or title is important but more important is to win people.

- 3. One has to sacrifice something to achieve something good in life. Do you agree? Justify with reference to Maria Sharapova. If you have to live alone in a boarding school, would you accept it?**

Yes, without sacrifice one can never achieve good things in life. Maria Sharapova is an example of it. She had to sacrifice her childhood luxuries in order to become a tennis star. She remained all alone at the age of nine as her mother could not accompany her. If she had not sacrificed her childhood, she would not have become a star. Maria Sharapova left her home at a tender age to achieve her goal in life. Yes, I will accept the challenge of living away from the family like Maria for a good cause. One cannot achieve success without sacrifice. If we crave for luxuries during our student life, we can't afford it when we are grown up. If one dreams to live a successful life one has to work hard, sacrifice luxuries during one's student life, i.e. to live in a boarding house for higher studies.

- 4. Determination is necessary for success. Do you agree? Justify with reference to the life of Sharapova.**

Determination is necessary for success. Maria Sharapova was only nine years old when she had to live alone in the United States. She was the youngest player and was constantly humiliated by fellow players. But Maria never gave up. Her strong determination made her mentally tough. If Maria had not been determined, she would have left the training camp when she was humiliated by her fellow players. It was only her determination that supported her. She never gave up due to any pressure. She managed everything at her own. It is the determination that leads one to success.

- 5. And that something in her lifted her on Monday: 22 August 2005 to the world number one position in women tennis. What do you think, was that something in Maria due to which she reached the top?**





Maria Sharapova became the number one in women's tennis on 22 August 2005. It was not an easy journey for her. She had a life full of struggles and sacrifices. She suffered from insults and humiliation from her fellow players. But all this made her mentally tough. She became more determined and stronger. This mental toughness and strong determination is that something which lifted her on Monday, 22 August 2005 to the world number one position in women's tennis. It proves that those who are determined with a clear vision, are destined to succeed in their life.

6. **Do you think, despite living in the United States, Maria Sharapova is a Russian at heart? If you were in place of Maria, would you have accepted the citizenship of the United States?**

Maria left her country Russia at the age of nine years. She spent her prime time in the United States. She speaks English with a pronounced American accent. She admits that the United States is a big part of her life. She likes American food, clothes and lifestyle but she is proud to display her Russian identity. Her blood is totally Russian. Her ambition to represent Russia in Olympics shows that she loves her country. In my opinion, Maria Sharapova, despite living in the United States, is Russian at heart. If I had been in place of Maria, I would have also taken the same decision. I am proud to be an Indian.

7. **"The other tennis pupils would come in at 11 p.m. and wake me up and order me to tidy up the room and clean it." This treatment of Maria by her seniors was like bullying the junior mates. How would you treat your junior mates if you were in the same situation?**

Maria was in Florida. She shared her room with other pupils who older than her. They ordered her to clean the room at midnight. She was the only non-American student and had to bear the insults and humiliations. This treatment by the seniors was, no doubt, a kind of bullying. It is something that we all should condemn. It is an attack on one's self-respect. We should never forget that we were also junior to someone. Being senior means having more responsibility towards our juniors. We should win over our juniors by helping them and not by bullying them. Love begets love.





Affection begets affection. We should always remember it and condemn the act of bullying or any kind of ragging. I will treat juniors with love, care and affection.

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