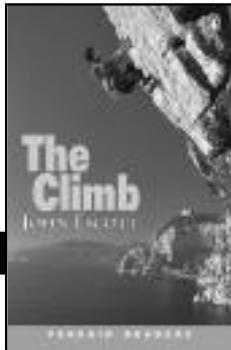


Teacher's notes

The Climb

by John Escott

**SUMMARY**

C Costas loves climbing but he has never climbed Eagle's Rock, with its crumbling handholds and its dangerous overhang. He is determined to climb it one day and be famous all over the island he lives on with his father, Mr Kazakou and his sister Eleni.

Eagle's Rock stands on one side of a C-shaped bay. At the top of the rock is a villa owned by a rich businessman, Mr Vitalis, a villa known to be full of priceless paintings. On the cliff top on the other side of the bay is a holiday villa owned by Costas' father.

One day, the mysterious Mr Holland arrives to stay in the holiday villa, and Costas recognises him as none other than David Ashken, the one-time famous mountain climber – before, that is, he had a bad fall and lost his nerve.

Costas sees Ashken looking at Eagle Rock through binoculars and realises that he, Ashken, is going to climb it. He guesses that he is going to break into Mr Vitalis' house and steal the paintings. What he doesn't know is that Mr Vitalis has set this up with Ashken as an insurance fraud.

Costas decides to make the climb before he is beaten to it by Ashken but the climb proves too difficult and he gets stuck on the overhang. Eleni raises the alarm with Ashken, who overcomes his fears and climbs the rock to rescue Costas.

Now Ashken can climb again he doesn't need to become a thief, and leaves Mr Vitalis looking for another way out of his money troubles

ABOUT JOHN ESCOTT

John Escott writes books for students of all ages. He especially enjoys writing mystery and detective stories. When he is not writing, he enjoys going for long walks by the sea, along empty beaches. He also enjoys searching out

old books in bookshops. He lives in Bournemouth on the south coast of England.

John Escott has also written *The Missing Coins*, *Lost in New York* and a number of other books published as Penguin Readers.

BACKGROUND AND THEMES

There are two basic themes in this story, linked by fear and the lack of it. On the one hand, we have Costas, the fearless youth who dreams of becoming famous by climbing a rock which would be dangerous even for a team of experienced mountaineers. By the end of the story he has learnt that good climbers don't go into unnecessary danger. On the other hand, there is David Ashken, a famous mountain climber who is too afraid to climb any more, after a fall in which he was seriously injured and a colleague was killed. He has lost not only his nerve but also his livelihood, since he cannot get paid for climbing or for writing about it. In desperation, he has almost turned to crime. But the necessity to rescue Costas from the overhang forces Ashken to confront his fears and, in the process, regain his love of climbing. He can return to his previous career and become famous again without risking a criminal record.

A minor theme is the notion that individuals turn to crime when they are not able to become rich by legal means, although to be fair to Ashken, he had already decided not to steal the painting even before he is involved in Costas' rescue. Fear of climbing rather than fear of the long arm of the law appears to have been the spur, however.

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Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader and supplement those exercises. For supplementary exercises covering shorter sections of the book, see the photocopiable Student's Activities pages of this Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers but, with the exception of the discussion and pair/group-work activities, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Ask students to look through the pictures in the book and work out a possible story from the pictures. Elicit ideas from different groups but don't confirm or correct any of the ideas.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

Chapters 1–3

- Put students in pairs to role play the conversation between Vitalis and Holland. Vitalis tells Holland what he wants and why and Holland tries to refuse.
- Ask students to work in small groups and answer these questions:
 - What is in the newspaper?
 - What's going to happen next? Elicit some ideas but don't confirm or correct.

Chapters 4–6

Tell students to imagine that David has turned down Mr Vitalis and he has to think of a new plan to steal the paintings and get the insurance money. Ask students to work in groups to think of another plan – which doesn't involve climbing Eagle's Rock. Elicit plans and decide which is the best one.

Chapters 7–8

- Put students in groups to role play the conversation between Costas, Eleni, Mr Kazakou and David. Costas explains everything that happened with the help of Eleni and David. Mr Kazakou is angry at first and then pleased when he realises that Costas has learned his lesson. He is grateful to David and offers him something.
- Put students in pairs to role play the conversation between Eleni and Costas when she explains the whole story to him.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- Put students into the same groups as in the 'Before you Read' activity. Ask them to recall the ideas they had for the story before they read the book and to compare that with the actual events in the story. What did they get right or wrong?

- Remind students that, in the book, Ashken becomes very frightened of climbing and then overcomes his fear. Ask students to work in groups and say if they have ever had a similar experience, or if they are still very frightened of something and why.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the 'Before You Read' sections of exercises at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

Chapters 1–3

- alarm** (n) something such as a bell, loud noise or light that warns people of danger
- beak** (n) hard pointed mouth of a bird
- burglar** (n) someone who goes into buildings in order to steal something
- cheat** (v) to behave in a dishonest way in order to win or get something
- cliff** (n) a steep rock or piece of land
- crack** (n) a thin line on something where it has been damaged
- eagle** (n) a big wild bird with a large curved beak; it eats small animals
- edge** (n) the part of something that is furthest from the centre
- fence** (n) a line of upright wooden posts with wire or wood between, used to divide or enclose an area of land
- gallery** (n) a room or building where you can look at paintings and other types of art
- nerve** (n) the ability to stay calm in a dangerous, difficult or frightening situation
- overhang** (n) a piece of rock which hangs out over the rock beneath
- villa** (n) a house with a garden in the countryside or near the sea, used especially for holidays
- worth** (adj) to have a particular value

Chapters 4–6

- binoculars** (n) a pair of glasses like short telescopes used for looking at distant objects
- coward** (n) someone who is not brave enough to do something they ought to do
- helmet** (n) a hard hat that covers and protects your head
- insurance** (n) when you pay a company money and they pay the costs if you are ill, have an accident, lose something
- rope** (n) very strong thick string, made by twisting together many threads
- slip** (v) to accidentally slide so you fall or almost fall



Student's activities

Photocopiable

Students can do these exercises alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only exercises are marked.

Activities before reading the book

Work in pairs. Can you find anything in common between these pictures in the book?

- (a) The picture on page 3 and the pictures on page 7 and 23.
- (b) The picture on page 7 and the picture on page 18.

Activities while reading the book

Chapters 1-3

- 1 Match each person or thing (a-f) to one of more of the descriptions (i-xiii).
 - (a) Holland
 - (b) The holiday villa
 - (c) The island
 - (d) Costas
 - (e) Eleni
 - (f) Mr Kazakou
 - (i) belonged to a man called Kazakou.
 - (ii) came to the island on a plane.
 - (iii) didn't have many bars.
 - (iv) drove to a holiday villa.
 - (v) had two children, Costas and Eleni.
 - (vi) liked climbing the cliffs around the island.
 - (vii) liked swimming.
 - (viii) owned the holiday villa and some holiday flats.
 - (ix) picked up a car from the airport garage.
 - (x) was almost afraid to watch Costas sometimes.
 - (xi) was Eleni's brother.
 - (xii) was on top of a cliff.
 - (xiii) wasn't far from the coast of Greece.

- 2 Complete these sentences about the information in Chapter 2. Use a word from the box in each case.

accidents alarm bird cliff company fence garden hands island man rock skills villa writer

- (a) Costas wanted to climb Eagle's
- (b) At the top of the ... was a large white house called Eagle House.
- (c) It belonged to a ... called Mr Vitalis.
- (d) Mr Vitalis owned a computer ... on the island.
- (e) The house had a high electric ... around three sides of the garden.
- (f) The fence had a special burglar ...
- (g) But there was no fence on the cliff side of the
- (h) There were a lot of ... on Eagle's Rock.

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- (i) But Costas wanted to test his climbing ... and his nerve.
 - (j) Sometimes he felt like a ... up on the cliff.
 - (k) Costas met Mr Holland and shook .. with him.
 - (l) His father said Mr Holland was a ...
 - (m) But Mr Holland didn't want to talk — he just wanted to get inside his ...
 - (n) 'I've never been to the ...', he told them, but Costas didn't believe him.
- 3 Are these sentences about the information in Chapter 3 true or false?
 - (a) Costas told his father about climbing Eagle's Rock.
 - (b) Eleni worked in a shop in the holidays.
 - (c) The shop belonged to her father.
 - (d) Mr Holland came into the shop and bought a book.
 - (e) The shop had a small gallery of paintings.
 - (f) Mr Vitalis came in and bought a painting.
 - (g) Eleni made coffee for people in the café.
 - (h) Mr Holland had a cup of coffee at the café.
 - (i) Mr Vitalis went to the café and sat behind Mr Holland.
 - (j) Mr Vitalis gave his newspaper to Mr Holland.
 - (k) Mr Vitalis was worried about money.
 - (l) People on the island knew he had money problems.
 - (m) Mr Vitalis knew Mr Holland.

Chapters 4-6

- 1 Complete these sentences about the information in Chapter 4. Use adjectives from the box in each case.

bad beautiful brave clever famous fine frightened full high interested long quiet real ugly wide

- (a) Eleni thought Eagle's Rock was ... but Costas thought it was ...
- (b) 'I'm going to be' thought Costas, 'when everyone hears about my climb.'
- (c) 'Even my father will know I'm ... and ...
- (d) 'I'll choose a ... , clear morning to climb it.'
- (e) Costas saw Mr Holland looking at the Rock and the house above for a ... time.
- (f) 'Why is he so ... in Mr Vitalis' house?' he thought.
- (g) Suddenly his eyes became ... with surprise.
- (h) He was very ... during supper.

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Student's activities

- (i) Then he showed Eleni a book called ...
Adventures by David Ashken with a picture of
the writer on the back.
- (j) 'Mr Ashken's ... name is David Ashken.' he told
her.
- (k) 'He had a ... fall from a mountain five years ago,
Costas told Eleni.
- (l) 'After that he was too ... to climb again.'
- (m) 'But perhaps he will try to climb Eagle's Rock
because the house at the top is ... of paintings.'
- 2 Match the questions (a–h) and answers (i–viii) about
the information in Chapter 5.
- (a) Where did Mr Vitalis meet David Ashken?
(b) Why was Ashken working in the bar?
(c) What did Vitalis want Ashken to do?
(d) Why did he need Ashken?
(e) How could the robber get out of the house with
the paintings?
(f) What did Ashken need money for?
(g) Why did Ashken say he couldn't do the job?
(h) What did Ashken say when Vitalis offered
another £10,000?
(i) Because he needed the money.
(ii) Because he was frightened?
(iii) Give me a few more days to decide.
(iv) He could switch off the alarm and open the
gates from the inside.
(v) In the bar of a hotel.
(vi) Steal his paintings.
(vii) The only way into the house was up Eagle's
Rock.
(viii) To buy a business or a shop.
- 3 In Chapter 6, who said, did or thought each of these
things? Choose between Eleni, Costas, Ashken or
Landberg.
- (a) Who woke up suddenly?
(b) Who decided to go for a swim?
(c) Who was carrying a climbing helmet and
climbing boots?
(d) Who planned to climb Eagle's Rock?
(e) Who looked angry to see her?
(f) Who shouted 'It's too dangerous to climb alone!'
(g) Who shook – not with cold but with fear.
(h) Who climbed up a crack in the rock?
(i) Who didn't move for a long time?
(j) Who watched the boy through binoculars?
(k) Who always wanted to climb with the great
David Ashken?
(l) Who could still remember the scream?
(m) Who broke both legs and a shoulder?
(n) Who broke his neck and his back?
(o) Who lay in a hospital bed and hoped to die?

Chapters 7–8

- 1 Discuss these questions in pairs about the
information in Chapter 7.
- (a) What did Eleni say to surprise David?
(b) What did David say to surprise Eleni?
(c) What did David say to surprise himself?
- 2 What do the pronouns in italics refer to in each
sentence about the information in Chapter 8?
- (a) *His* hands couldn't hold the rocks because *they*
were shaking too much.
(b) *He* could hear Landberg's scream.
(c) *He* wasn't on the Austrian mountain.
(d) *He* was climbing Eagle's Rock.
(e) He couldn't believe *it*.
(f) *I'll* get you down.
(g) There's a foot hold to *your* left. Can you see *it*?
(h) Soon *they* were both on the beach.
(i) *She* threw *her* arms around *him*.
(j) *They* walked back across the beach.
- 3 Work in pairs. Who said or thought each of these
things in Chapter 8? Why are they important?
- (a) 'I've never felt better in all my life than I do now.'
(b) He knew that this was his last climb on Eagle's
Rock.
(c) 'You've changed my life.'
(d) 'I think I'll stay away from this part of the cliff.'
(e) 'But first I have to telephone someone.'
(f) 'I don't need to do it now, because I can climb
again.'

Activities after reading the book

Work in pairs. Think of a different title for each chapter.
It must be a sentence or phrase from the chapter.



He said he'd climb the highest mountain to win her love. Now it's time to prove it. With the whole country watching. Watch trailers & learn more. Netflix and third parties use cookies and similar technologies on this website to collect information about your browsing activities which we use to analyse your use of the website, to personalise our services and to customise our online advertisements. Netflix supports the Digital Advertising Alliance Principles. Learn more about our use of cookies and information.

Miley Cyrus "The Climb": I can almost see it That dream I'm dreaming But there's a voice inside my head sayin' "You'll never... I can almost see it That dream I'm dreaming But there's a voice inside my head sayin' "You'll never reach it" Every step I'm takin' Every move I make feels lost with no direction My faith is shakin'. But I, I gotta keep tryin' Gotta keep my head held high. The Climb brings alive the excitement and thrill of rock climbing in incredible virtual reality. Players will scale new heights and explore stunning environments in a new gaming experience developed exclusively for VR, using the power of CRYENGINE and OCULUS QUEST.

"The Climb" is a country pop power ballad where Cyrus sings about how rewarding the journey of life is despite the unsure ending. The song was released as the lead single off of the Hannah Montana: The Movie soundtrack. In the context of the movie, the song describes the important lesson that Miley Stewart, played by Cyrus, had to learn in her hometown to better understand and appreciate the life outside of the pop stardom created by Hannah Montana. The Climb is about a tumultuous but enduring relationship between two men across many years of laughter, heartbreak and rage. It is also the story of real-life best friends who turn their profound connection into a rich, humane and frequently uproarious film about the boundaries (or lack thereof) in all close friendships.

A pitch-perfect comedy-drama from start to finish, The Climb is a funny, intelligent, organic and touching tale of friendship. Dealing with a sobering yet equally farcical story that lasts