

1-Listen and read the story

TOUCHING THE VOID

In 1985, two young climbers called Joe Simpson and Simon Yates were travelling in Peru. After several climbing expeditions in Europe, they wanted to be the first to climb the west side of the 6,356-metre Siula Grande in the Andes mountains.

This particular ascent is extremely difficult. But Simpson and Yates weren't worried. They were young, confident, and experienced.

The men put up their tent a few miles from the mountain and began their journey. They attached themselves to a rope to stay together at all times. In two and a half days, they climbed the mountain successfully. But then their problems began.

While they were descending the mountain, Simpson fell and broke his leg. When Yates tried to lower him safely, he fell further. The weather was terrible, so Yates couldn't see or hear his friend. All he knew was that Simpson was hanging from the rope below him. In order to survive, Yates made the hardest decision of his life and cut the rope, allowing Simpson to fall. Thinking that Simpson was probably dead, Yates continued his descent.

Incredibly, Simpson was still alive, but in agony. He was now lying in a deep crevasse. Alone and scared, he knew he could stay there and die, or he could search for a way out. He decided to move deeper into the crevasse and eventually escaped. Then, in agonising pain, he crawled on one leg back to the tent. The journey took him four days, with no food or water.

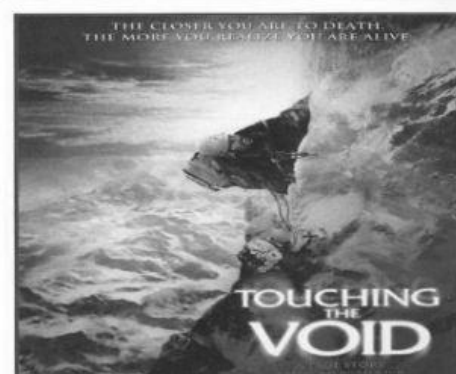
Back at the tent, Yates was sleeping when he heard a voice. As the voice grew louder, he realised it was Simpson. Years later, a film about Joe Simpson's miraculous story of survival, *Touching the Void*, made Simpson and Yates world famous.



The Siula Grande



Actors portraying Yates and Simpson



2-Read again and choose the words to complete the sentences

couldn't see or hear him heard Simpson's voice helped his friend needed to survive
used a rope were young and confident

- 1 They weren't worried about the difficult ascent because they were young and confident.
- 2 They _____ to stay together.
- 3 When Simpson fell, Yates _____.
- 4 Yates cut the rope because he _____.
- 5 When Yates _____, he knew his friend was alive.

3- Choose a famous pionner and write about his travel.

Stage 3: Writing a draft

- Write sentences for your description. Use the paragraph plan below.

Paragraph 1: the name of the pioneer and some background information about them.

Paragraph 2: what important things they did and why they were important, but not famous.

Paragraph 3: their influence on the future.