The youngest girl to conquer Everest

12 Write the comparative or superlative form of the adjective in brackets.

Malavath Poorna

Youngest teen to climb Mount Everest

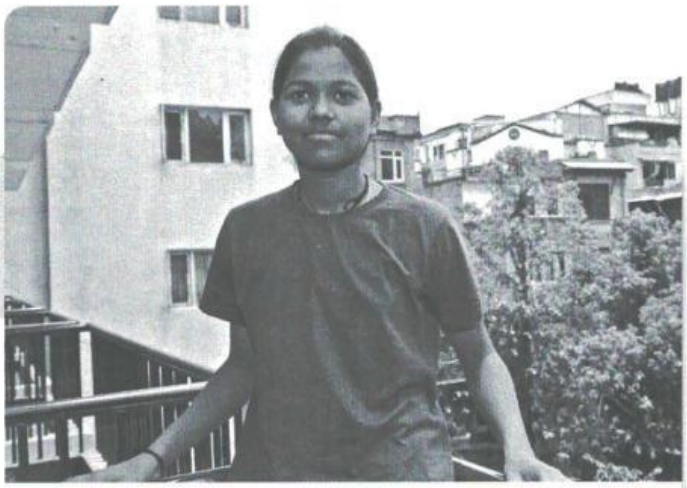
Malavath Poorna was only 13 years old when she climbed Mount Everest. She is the [1] *youngest* (*young*) girl ever to reach the summit of the world's [2] _____ (*high*) mountain – an incredible achievement for the daughter of a farm worker from India. She is now a national celebrity, and there is a film about her adventures.

From the bottom to the top!

Malavath attended a school for underprivileged* children. The secretary of the school, Dr R.S. Praveen Kumar, had a dream. He believed that by training a young person to climb Everest, he could show India's [3] _____ (*poor*) citizens that there are opportunities for everyone. By making a farmer's daughter into one of India's [4] _____ (*good*) climbers, he showed that anything was possible.

Malavath was [5] _____ (*good*) at sports than a lot of the other students, and [6] _____ (*fit*) too, so she was one of two students chosen for the Everest climb, which involved ice and snow training. She knew nothing about climbing before she began the training, and was amazed to learn that she was going to climb the [7] _____ (*famous*) mountain in the world. The training was a lot [8] _____ (*hard*) than she expected.

The [9] _____ (*frightening*) moment for Malavath was when they found six dead bodies. 'I was scared,' she says, but then she remembered her school motto: *The sky is the limit!* 'I wanted to prove that girls could do anything.'



Dreaming big

Since climbing Everest, Malavath has also climbed Africa's [10] _____ (*tall*) mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. She's now working hard for her exams, because she wants to join the Indian Police Service. She continues to encourage Indian girls to 'dream big', and tells them they can be as good as the boys – or even [11] _____ (*good*)!

The film about Malavath's journey to Everest is called *Poorna*. The film's director, Rahul Bose, said, 'Malavath Poorna is the [12] _____ (*remarkable*) person I have ever met.'

underprivileged having less money and fewer opportunities than most people in society



13 Are the sentences true (✓) or false (✗)? Correct the false sentences.

1 ☐ Malavath's school was for some of the poorest families in India.
2 ☐ Malavath was chosen to climb Everest because she was the youngest in her class.
3 ☐ She was a more experienced climber than the other students in the school.
4 ☐ The training wasn't as hard as she expected.
5 ☐ The worst part of the climb was seeing climbers who never came back from the mountain.
6 ☐ After Everest, Malavath climbed the tallest mountain in Europe.
7 ☐ Malavath believes that girls can sometimes do better than boys.
8 ☐ The director of *Poorna* thinks that Malavath is more talented than most young people.

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