

The Climb

Hands search
Rocks sharp
Legs stretch
Firm hold
Look up
Summit not seen
Lungs pant
Breath short
On and on
Up and up
One more step
Up and on
Throat dry
Breath short
Legs move
Hands drag
Muscles ache
Nearly done
Heart beats
Summit nearer
One more step
Look up
Journey's done!



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Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

The climber's hands are searching for

- 1 **grass.** **rocks.** **shells.** **mud.**

The climber finds the climb

- 2 **quick.** **easy.** **hard.**

He or she is climbing

- 3 **up the rock.** **down the rock.**

The word 'summit' means

- 4 **the halfway point.** **the bottom.** **the top.** **the middle.**

The poem is written in short lines because

- 5 **It is easier to write.** **It shows the climb is easy.**

It shows how breathless the climber is.

At the end of the poem, the climber

- 6 **is successful in reaching the summit.**
 only makes it half way.
 falls off the rock.

Section B

- 1 What is the person doing in the poem?

- 2 What are his hands searching for in line 1?

- 3 What is the summit of a mountain?

- 4 Is the climb easy or hard?

- 5 Why do the climber's muscles ache?

- 6 Why is his 'throat dry, breath short'?

- 7 Why are the lines in this poem so short?

- 8 Do you think the poem is effective? Give reasons for your answer?

- 9 Find two phrases in the poem which make you think that the climber is finding it difficult?

- 10 Can you think of an activity you have done which has made you feel like the poet does? Give reasons for your choice.

Section C

Write a poem in a similar style to this one. It could be about a cross-country run, a swimming race, or a race on sports day.

