1. What advice does Peak’s English teacher give him? Pg. 1

Start out with a hook; brutal truth in your own voice regardless of what society believes/thinks

2. Where was Peak headed? Why? Pg. 3

In mid climb of the Woolworth Bldg. He had a problem with waiting.

3. What were his three options? What did he decide to do? Why?

1. finish the climb 2. Climb down – over 500 feet. Wait for rescue.  
He decided to keep going up because his mom would “get him” if climbing the building didn’t.

4. Why was he arrested?

Against the law to climb skyscrapers and tag them with graffiti

5. Why did he “tag” buildings? Sketch his “tag” below. Pg. 7/8

Why? It is the mystery of how it is done. – like graffiti – in his opinion there isn’t enough mystery -2 blue mountains is the tag

6. What is unusual about his school? What was he known for?

No grades, no real name only known as the Green Street School, K-12, prodigies galore and Peak is known for being their writer.

7. Why was Peak in so much trouble?

The mayor was in the building at a reception and they thought he was a terrorist and then a couple of days later, a young boy with no experience tried to climb a building and fell, losing his life.

8. What punishment did Peak get (give the specifics)? Why?

On probation until the age of 18; fine of 150,000.00 refundable if he meets his sentence; gag order, no discussions and he must leave town with his father.
1. Why did Peak say that the twins were his best birthday present ever? Pg. 28

They won him over; they were brilliant, hilarious and worshipped the ground he walked on.

2. Why were his parents so well known in the mountain climbing world? What had they accomplished? Pg. 32

They took the summit of El Cap in record time of 32:43, and broke other climbing records as well.

3. What injury did his mom have? How did it happen?

Rock climbing in her back yard; fell 30 feet to the ground. She had a shattered hip and broken back.

4. How did Peak successfully get away with climbing skyscrapers?

Studied them, inside and out; planned exits (elevators), put duct tape on the roof door and slept in the stairwell until morning when the building was reopened for business he would just walk out.

5. How did his dad react to having him with him now? Why?

He kind of ignored him. They had separate rows on each flight; asked him to pretend he was the big brother; said he was happy but was really standoffish and made lots of excuses not to hang out with Peak.

6. Where was his dad taking him? Why?

Originally Chiang Mai, Katmandu then to Everest – to climb up the North side of Everest in Tibet; before his 15th birthday; youngest climber ever.

7. Why did Peak have to acclimate first? What is HAPE? Pg. 46

High Altitude Pulmonary Edema; body has to get used to thin air; if not lungs will fill with fluid and you can’t breathe, you go into a coma and the only treatment is O’s at a lower altitude.

8. How was Peak going to get to the Base Camp? How high up is it? pg. 51

Zopa, former Head Sherpa, not a Buddhist monk would get him there to base camp in a couple of weeks. The height is 18,000 feet.
1. What gear did his father get him? How did he react? Why? Pg. 52

Stove, rope, crampons, titanium ax, thermal gloves, camera, O2 regulator, altimeter watch, etc – Almost made up for all the missed birthdays, etc. If you give a climber all of this stuff it’s like Christmas.

2. What is K2? Give specifics. Pg.54

K – Karakorum 2 – 2nd peak T.G. Montgomery listed on a survey in 1856

3. What was unusual about Zopa? Pg. 57

Not a frail monk - powerful arms and legs and when he changed into every day clothes he looked like a movie star.

4. What did Peak realize about his climbing ability? How?

He had only climbed skyscrapers at sea lever and when Sun-jo passed him he realized he needed better lung capacity for the thin air.

5. What things did they do on their way to Base Camp? Why? Pg. 66

Hiked with full back packs alongside the truck everyday for 10 days
Talked and got to know each other along the way
Climbed every night

6. What was the Everest Base Camp like? Why was Peak so surprised? Pg. 70

Gigantic tents everywhere; it looked like an outhouse, garbage dump with decades of crap. “You expected it to be pristine but it wasn’t”

7. What did Peak realize about why his father had brought him to Everest? Pg. 75

To be youngest climber ever to reach summit

8. What type of business did his father run? Why? Pg. 71/72

Peak Experience – adventure travel com; for amateurs or experienced climbers alike.
1. What did Peak mean when he said, “I would have liked it better if he had come to New York to save me because I was in trouble, not because he was in trouble.”? (p. 78)

His father was in deep debt and needed money – if Peak made the climb successfully he would be rich.

2. Why were they keeping Peak’s attempt to summit a secret? Pg 80

Chinese – if they found out about putting a 14-year-old, they would pull the climbing permit; could not have an American beat their own record.

3. What got you out of the “death zone”? (p. 85)

Your blood oxygenation and luck; fitness level helped.

4. What is “self-arrest”? pg. 88

If you started sliding down the mountain you better know how to dig your crampons and axe into the ice to stop your self and hand on for deal life.

5. What does the phrase, “climb high, sleep low” mean? Why did Josh need to take people up to ABC now?

To climb to approx 1000 feet a day is OK as long as you come back down and sleep at a lower altitude. He needed to get people acclimated to be able to climb further up the mountain.

6. Why was the situation at ABC potentially critical?

A storm is coming; winds at 73 MPH and gusts over 100; there were 2 cases of HAPE – 1 severe and 1 mild

7. What is a Gamow Bag? What is it used for? Pg. 99

Made by Igor Gamow – it is an airtight bag – high altitude have low pressure – when someone gets HAPE you place the inside the bag, zip it up, fill with air equal to air at sea level and climber can breathe again.

8. Where was Peak headed the next morning? With who? Why? Pg 101

Up the Mountain towards ABC with Zopa and Sun-jo to get Josh and Leah – The film crew went with them (JR. Will and Jack)
1. What surprised Peak the next morning? How was he feeling? Pg 107

28 degrees – no wind – best weather he had seen yet and he was disappointed. His throat was sore, muscles and joints felt like broken glass.

2. Why were the herders and porters so important? Why were the others annoyed with them? Pg 110

They carried of the materials the climbers needed. On the downside, walking behind Yak dung was not fun and when things went missing Herders were usually the ones blames.

3. How were they feeling? Why? Pg 111

Needs O’s, thin air, weak, gasping, dehydrated

4. Describe ABC. What did they go through to get there? Pg 119

21,161 feet it is a pile of rubble between a glacier that looked like it had been formed by frozen sewage and rotten rock wall. It had ankle breaking rocks and life ending crevasses.

5. How did Holly surprise Peak? Why do you think she was feeling this way now? Pg 121

She was now carrying her own backpack on way down and beat them back to base camp by 30 mins.

6. What was going on with Sun-jo? How was Peak feeling? Pg 122

He has become very sick. Peak is feeling better than he has in his life.

7. Why didn’t Peak tell Josh about the letters he received or wrote home? Pg 125

He felt that he didn’t deserve to know because he had never even written one letter to him while he was on this mountain. Having been able to receive mail, Peak now realized that Josh had gotten every one of his letters over the year and had not returned any of them.

8. How did Zopa surprise Josh and the climbing team? Why? Pg 130

He is Sun-jo’s grandfather – he had planned from the beginning to have Sun-jo climb to summit. Even though he is direct competition with Peak, he only wants Sun-jo to be known as “Youngest Free Tibetan”
1. What was the plan for getting the C team up the mountain? Why?
   Team would be Sun-jo, who would pose as a herder, Peak, part of film team, Film Crew who would be
   filming for a documentary on Sherpa’s and Holly would be writing the story on Sherpa’s. They would be led by
   Zopa, Yogi and Yash.

2. Why was Peak feeling confused and mad? Pg. 138
   He had many unanswered questions; 1. Was Sun-jo’s b-day when they said it was since his documents
   were forged; would Josh now really care which one got there first because regardless because they were on his
   permit it would give his company recognition and money.

3. Why did Zopa want Sun-jo to make it to the summit? How did Peak feel about it? pg 141-142
   So that Sun-jo would not have to become a Sherpa; the notoriety of the climb would be enough to get him
   back in school. This helped to center Peak in that he realized only you can make then climb; not a partner.

4. What did JR mean when he said they would have to figure out the story? Pg 144
   At then end of the climb, the outcome could change what the meaning of the story was. It could become
   about friendship b/t Peak and Sun-jo or about Josh and Peak or Sun-jo and Zopa.

5. What had Holly learned during her time on Everest? How had she changed? Pg. 154
   1. She was getting older
   2. The mountain is bigger than her and being alone, considering all of her relationships that had gone bad,
      was a humbling experience.

6. Why did they say that at Camp Five, “you were on your own”? (p. 156)
   After Camp 5 there is little chance of rescue from air or by foot. Air is too thin for helicopters and at that
   point no one can really help the other. “To each his own.” If you die past this point, your body remains on the
   mountain.

7. How did Peak get an unexpected surge of energy from Zopa? Pg. 161
   He gave him positive words. He said “You did it. You have a chance at the summit” He had just chastised
   Sun-jo as being too slow.
1. What was wrong with the climbers who were above Peak’s group?

There were 2 cases of HAPE at Camp 6 and 1 mild one at Camp 5 – 2 climbers had left after midnight to go to the summit and hadn’t been from since

2. How were they going to get the injured and sick climbers down?

Sherpas were going to take them down but they had to wait until they were at Camp 5 to retrieve them.

3. What happened to Zopa? Why?

He was arrested because he didn’t how his papers to Captain Shek and b/c Shek couldn’t find the boy

4. Why did Peak have an argument with his father? What happened as a result?

His father approached him about writing letters back to him mom. He told him that they wrote him so it was only right to write back. Josh said that they had an agreement that he would handle Peak’s mom. Peak said there was no such thing and then got mad and told his father that he knew he had received all of Peak’s letters over the years and not once had written back.

5. What advice did Peak’s mother give him about the climb?

- Focus on the task
- Don’t think about anyone but yourself
- Harden yourself inside; your guts need to be stone cold
- Concentrate on the climb and stop when you know it is time

6. What did Josh reveal to Peak about why he owed Sun-jo and Zopa?

Sunjo’s dad, Zopa’s son, Kitar was the man who saved Josh’s life 2 years ago and he died as a result of rescuing him

7. How was Peak being treated by the other climbers? Why?

They were mad because he was going to the summit so they told him that everything he ate and drank and wore was probably paid for by them.

8. What threat did the other climbers give Josh? Why?

They told Josh that no one on the climbing team would go to the summit if he brought Peak along with them. They would return home and sue him.
1. What announcement did Josh make to the climbers? Why?

Josh announced the teams and Peak was no included. He said he had been selfish and that the climbers had paid the tab and therefore he was sending Peak back down the mountain.

2. What news did Zopa reveal to Peak? Why had they tricked him?

They were going to be team C. He gave him a note from his dad saying that they had to make it look like he was sending him home so that Capt. Shek and the climbers would stop harassing them. He would be going up to the Summit from another direction.

3. What happened to Sun-jo on the ice wall? What and/or who saved him? How?

He slipped and fell 10 feet and was holding on to a protrusion with one axe. Peak crabbed sideways, hooked Sun-jo’s harness with a rope the minute his ax slipped out of the ice.

4. Why was Josh giving so much information over the radio?

He was setting up the Chinese and Capt Shek, making them believe that Peak really did go home.

5. What happened to Zopa? What solution to the problem did he propose? Why?

Zopa came down sick with the virus that had run through the camp. He would keep climbing to Camp 4 but would have to stop there and they would have to continue on with Yogi and Yash.

6. How were they planning to get down off the summit? Why?

On the other side, the Nepalese side. Sherpas will be waiting to help them. They were doing this to avoid capt. Shek.

7. Why did they have to get to the summit within 18 hours?

O’s or not, there is a limit to how long a human can stay at that altitude.

8. What did they see on their way up? (p. 216) How did they react? Why?

They first say 1 corpse and then another 50 feet away. They stared for a while. After 5 more corpses they no longer looked.
1. Describe the three steps on the way to the summit.

PAGE 225-226 LONG ANSWER – READ IT IN YOUR BOOK

2. How did Peak “save himself”?

PAGE 225 – LONG ANSWER AGAIN – READ IT IN THE BOOK

3. Why did Peak say, “it was best to avoid looking at the summit”? (p. 228)

Peak says that even though he was so close every time he stole a glance at the summit it seemed to be further away even though he was really closer.

4. What did Peak do only a few feet from the top of Mt. Everest? Why?

Tomorrow was Sun-jo’s birthday, it was May 30th and so he stopped and left so that Sun-jo would be the youngest person to reach the top of Everest.

5. Why did Peak choose to go back down the north side? Why did Sun-jo have to do down the south side?

If he would have gone down the south side everyone would have known that he had summited. Sun-jo had no choice but to go down into his home country as he would have been arrested by Shek had he gone back the other way.

6. What did Peak tell his father? Why?

He told his dad he didn’t make the summit that he ran out of steam, so he wouldn’t know that he had given up his shot to help a friend. He also told him that he was going home and would not see when he came back down the mountain. He had to be there for PP’s birthday.

7. What final conversation did Peak have with Zopa? Why?

They said their goodbyes and Zopa thanked him for what Peak did for his grandson and he thanked Zopa for what his son (K) had done for his dad Josh.

8. What lesson did Peak learn from his Everest experience?

Mount Everest may be beautiful but the things you care about the most are the most divine. (see the last line in the novel and make it your own)