

A Curriculum Guide to

***No Summit out of Sight***

***The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits***

by Jordan Romero  
with Linda LeBlanc

The following questions contained in this section particularly address the Common Core State Standards: (RI.9–10.1, 2, 5, 6) (SL.9–10.1, 1a, 1c, 4, 5, 6)

**About the Book**

At the age of thirteen, Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb Mount Everest. At the age of fifteen, he became the youngest person to climb the tallest mountain on each continent. He lives in Big Bear Lake, California.

**Prereading Activity**

Have students mark their opinion of the following statements below. Then place posters around the four corners of your room that correspond with the rankings

<b>Statement:</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>WHY I think this:</b>
<b>Setting goals in life is the only way to succeed.</b>					
<b>Parents should always help you meet your goals.</b>					
<b>Living a healthy lifestyle should be a priority for everyone.</b>					
<b>Pushing through pain, doubt, and fear are important skills to learn.</b>					
<b>Success always demands sacrifice.</b>					

**Discussion Questions**

Use these questions as a springboard for discussion for whole class, literature circles, or reading pairs. Students should annotate the text while they read by underlining, highlighting, and making notes in margins or with sticky notes to prepare for discussion.

1. Why do you think the author decided to include a prologue to the book? What does it add to your reading experience? Why could it be difficult to create suspense in a memoir?

2. Examine the way Jordan first got interested in the seven summits. How influential do you think his family's lifestyle is to this interest? What is his family's motto? What would yours be?
3. How did Jordan impress his dad with his goal? What would it take to impress one of your parents about a goal you have? Paraphrase why there are actually eight mountains for someone to climb to reach the goal of the seven summits.
4. How does Jordan's mom react to his new goal? How would yours? What challenges does Jordan face in his home life? How does he handle it? What do you think would be the most difficult part?
5. Summarize Jordan's training for his first summit attempt. Explain how financing the trips are also a commitment of time and resources. How does Jordan help?
6. Identify the challenges Jordan faces through Kenya and Tanzania. How does Mount Kilimanjaro underline to Jordan how grateful he should be? Why do the porters call him Little Lion?
7. Create a list of symptoms that Jordan must be aware of as he ascends in altitude. Why is it so critical to be aware of them?
8. Explain what was even more important to Jordan than becoming recognized for his climb as the youngest on Mount Kilimanjaro? Why did he get so much attention for this climb? Would you, too, like to set a record of some sort?
9. Summarize Jordan's adventure in Australia. What do you think was the most memorable part about the trip? Were there any surprises?
10. Jordan says about his father, "Intimidation never works on Dad. He looks fear in the eye, climbs over it, and moves on. I wanted to be that way too..." Why is this a really important skill to have as the trio attempts to climb Mount Elbrus in Russia?
11. What helped Jordan push through, knowing it was waiting for him on his return to town? Why was it disappointing? How did he get down the mountain faster and build a new skill?
12. As Jordan faces climbing South America's Mount Aconcagua, he must learn to understand and identify the Lake Louise self-report for himself and his team. Explain how it works and why it is so critical. Are there other sports that should develop a system like this? Which ones?
13. Outline the many steps Jordan had to face for getting and keeping his permit to climb Aconcagua. Why do you think there is so much red tape? How is it eventually overcome?
14. Describe Christmas on Aconcagua. Which part was the most difficult? Do you think Jordan would have ever been able to reach this goal if his father and stepmom were not such competitive athletes themselves?

15. If you were going to film footage of Jordan's preparation for Denali in a video blog, what five clips would you include? Why?
16. Whom did Jordan meet on Denali? What does his story remind Jordan about this attempt? What serious drama was unfolding on the mountain nearby that they were powerless to help? Why?
17. Describe Jordan's reaction on the summit of Denali. Why do you think this mountain inspired such emotion? What did Jordan find out about at home that changed his perspective on things?
18. Create ten tweets as if you were Jordan in Papua New Guinea. Share and explain with a reading partner.
19. Why do you think Carstensz was Jordan's favorite so far of the mountains? What was unique about this expedition?
20. Describe Kathmandu and the family's decision for a northern Chinese-side ascent to Everest. Why does a climb like this take so long?
21. What do the Tibetans call Everest? How do they treat her with reverence? Describe the ceremony they participate in before the climb.
22. Summarize the most frightening part of the trip near Crampon Point. Would you be able to go on after witnessing this event? How close was Jordan to not coming back from Everest?
23. Describe life at base camp. How do you think we can build camaraderie like this between nations with such diverse backgrounds off of a mountain? How do the other climbers treat Jordan?
24. Jordan is not certain that all things will cooperate (like the weather) for the chance to him to summit at Everest. How hard would it be to not make it at this point for him? How hard would it be for you? How is disappointment best dealt with? Explain how Jordan's intense training has paid off.
25. What was the summit experience on Everest like for Jordan? Do you think his sacrifices and training changed him as a person? How does his story inspire you?
26. Jordan's dad faced a great deal of criticism for taking him on these adventures. He finally says to the media, "You want to talk about irresponsible parenting? Let's talk about the million and some parents that are standing in a fast-food restaurant waiting to supersize their kid right now for dinner tonight." What do you think of his statement? Is he right? Which is actually more dangerous long-term?

27. List the challenges and most important moments of the Antarctica expedition to climb Mount Vinson. Star the three moments you think Jordan will remember most.

28. Jordan has developed his own philosophy that he hopes will inspire other kids. Find a quote that best represents it. Then respond to it in a journal.

29. What do you think is the most important thing that Jordan learned throughout his quest for the seven summits? Do you think the sacrifices he made were worth what he learned?

30. Create a list of goals that you would most like to accomplish in the next year on an index card like Jordan suggests. Then list the people who could most help you reach those goals.

### Point of View/Rhetoric

1. What is the author's point of view in telling his story? Why do you think the story is told in this point of view? What does it add to the story?

2. Define the following rhetorical devices and describe how they are used in the memoir:

<b>Term:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>	<b>How it is used in the book:</b>
<b>Rhetoric</b>	The art of persuasion in writing or speaking.	Jordan speaks passionately about kids getting outside and leading a healthy lifestyle.
<b>Bildungsroman</b>		
<b>In medias res</b>		
<b>Motif</b>		
<b>Imagery</b>		

How do these devices create an understanding of Jordan's purpose for writing the book (and climbing all those mountains)?

### Summarizing

Good readers are able to summarize the salient points of a text. These summaries focus on the important aspect of a selection and underline the central idea across chapters. At the end of each chapter write a one-sentence summary of it and mark key quotes (with page numbers) which support this conclusion. Be prepared to discuss and defend not only your summary but your choice of quotes.

Chapter:	One sentence summary:	Key Quote & page:
1.	Jordan reveals his goal of climbing the seven summits as a young person to his father.	“Go fast. Take chances.”
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### **Cooperative Group Presentations**

Divide classes into eight equal-sized groups. Then assign them the task of learning about each of the mountains Jordan summits:

- Africa’s Mount Kilimanjaro
- Australia’s Mount Kosciuszko

- South America's Aconcagua
- North America's Denali
- Oceania's Carstensz Pyramid
- Mount Everest
- Antarctica's Mount Vinson
- Mount Elbrus

Each group will present to the class pertinent information before reading that section of the book. Each member of the group must present. Presentations can be in many formats: PowerPoint, Prezi, movie, etc. but it must provide the following:

- Salient facts: A pinpointed map, specific location, and elevation with a picture.
- Notes on the nation(s) where it's located including: type of government, language, culture, religion, etc.
- Challenges for permission and what's required to ascend it safely
- Special equipment and training required

After-Presentation Discussion:

- a) How does audience affect presentations? For example, how would these presentations need to be revised for an audience of third graders? Adults?
- b) How can presenters gain skill and avoid awkward pauses, and the overuse of words such as "like" or "um."
- c) What qualities make a presentation exceptional?
- d) What if these presentations were meant to be persuasive rather than informative? What additional information would need to be included?

### **Vocabulary Expansion**

Make a list of words that would be useful to know for someone beginning to mountain climb. Write a definition based on the context in which these words appear.

Example: Crampons: metal spikes that are strapped to the bottom of a shoe with straps to hold them in place. Used for walking and climbing on hard slippery snow and ice.

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