

Small Woman Is Big Hero



1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.
What is the story about? Now read it.

JAPAN ¹At just 1.50 meters tall, Junko Tabei is a small woman, but she is a big **hero**. ²In 1975, she became the first woman to reach the top of Mount Everest. ³It was almost **impossible**. There was an avalanche*, and Tabei sometimes had to climb on her hands and knees to reach her **goal**. ⁴Now she is over 60 years old, but Tabei is still climbing three or four mountains a year.

⁵But the world's mountains are in **serious** trouble, she says. And the **reason**? More and more climbers are leaving **trash**—bottles, cans, and old shoes—**all over** the mountains. ⁶Tabei, a **leader** in conservation**, is trying to change that. As the head of a Japanese conservation **program**, she

teaches young people all over Asia to **care for** their mountains. ⁷She takes groups of young people into the mountains to **get rid of** the trash and **plant** trees. Recently, students from Korea, Japan, and Taiwan climbed Snow Mountain in Taiwan with her.

⁸“Mountains teach me a lot of things,” Tabei says. “They teach me how small **my own** problems are.”

*avalanche: snow that falls quickly down a mountain
** conservation: taking care of the world's forests, lakes, and mountains

NEW WORDS

hero *n*

impossible *adj*

goal *n*

serious *adj*

reason *n*

trash *n*

all over *adv*

leader *n*

program *n*

care for *v*

get rid of *v*

plant *v*

my own *det pron*

>> See Glossary on page 96. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.



3. Check your comprehension

Correct five mistakes in the story summary.

Junko Tabei is a large woman and a big hero. When she climbed Mount Everest in 1975, it was easy for her to reach her goal. Today, Tabei still loves to swim. She says that mountains teach her how small her own problems are. Mountains are in trouble, she says, because climbers are leaving trees all over them. Tabei, the leader of a conservation program, is teaching people all over Asia to care for their lakes.

4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- Junko Tabei, a le_____ in conservation, says that mountains are in ser_____ trouble.
- And the rea____? People leave tr_____ behind as they climb.
- Tabei shows young people how to _____ for the mountains.
- They pl_____ trees and get _____ of cans, bottles, and old shoes.

5. Listen to the story track 34

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

7. Answer the questions

About the story...

- What was Tabei's goal in 1975?
- What is Tabei doing now?
- Why does she like to be in the mountains?
- Would you like to climb with her? Why or why not?

About you...

- What can you do to help the mountains, lakes, or parks near you?
- What do you do when you go to the mountains?
- Would you like to climb Mount Everest? Why or why not?
- Who are your heroes?

8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

GOAL		
reach achieve	a goal	<i>Tabei climbed on her hands and knees to reach her goal.</i> <i>John is sure that he will achieve his goals.</i> <i>I want to achieve my goal before I am 30.</i>
My goal is to do something		<i>My goal is to become a doctor.</i> <i>My goal is to have a restaurant in the future.</i>

- One of my goals is to _____.
- I want to _____ my goal before I am _____.
- My best friend's goal is _____ in the future.

9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the picture.

TRASH



a cardboard
box



a computer



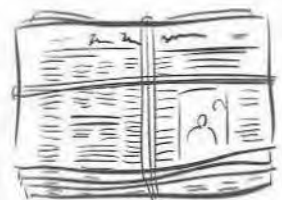
a glass bottle



a soda can



a plastic bottle



paper

- In my trash can, you can find _____ and _____.
- Sometimes I see a person throwing _____ on the street.
- This week I picked up _____ off the street.

10. Take a dictation track 35

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 87.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

impossible hero goal serious leader program

Small Boy Is Big Hero

OTTAWA, CANADA When he was six years old, Ryan Hreljac, a Canadian, was already a (1) _____ to many people in Africa. How did this happen? Ryan's story began in 1998. His teacher told the six-year-old boy and his class* that many people in Africa were dying because they had no clean water. Ryan could not stop thinking about this (2) _____ problem. He told everyone about it, and then he and his family began to collect** money. Their (3) _____ was to build a water well*** in Africa.

Ryan collected enough money and built the well, but he did not stop there. He spoke to schoolchildren, collected more money, and built even more wells. About 150,000 more people in Africa now have clean water.

These days Ryan is a serious student with a lot of schoolwork. But in his free time he travels around the world to collect more



money for his (4) _____—Ryan's Well Foundation.

Ryan is a true (5) _____ who tells children that they can change the world. "Nothing is (6) _____," he says. "Anyone can do anything. It doesn't matter who you are."

* class: a group of children who learn together

** collect: take things from different people and put them together

*** well: a deep hole for getting water from under the ground



Talk about the stories

Imagine that you and a partner are Junko Tabei and Ryan Hreljac. You are meeting for the first time. Tell each other about your lives.