

ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY, MUMBAI

Sub: English

Handout: 2

Module: 2/2

Lesson: 8

Reach for the Top

Class: IX

Maria Sharapova

"I used to be so lonely. I missed my mother terribly. My father was working as much as he could so he couldn't see me either,"

Unstoppable: My life so far

A difficult childhood leaves some people wounded and disadvantaged. However, for some, a tough childhood drives them to outrageous achievement and success. Former World No.1 **Maria Sharapova** comes under the latter group of people.

Explanation

Composed and self-assured

Maria Sharapova attained world number one position in women's tennis on Monday, 22 August 2005. She took only four years of training to become the top seeded woman tennis player. Maria was poised beyond her age. It is this quality that helped her achieve success.

Difficult childhood

Maria Sharapova was born on 19 April 1987 to her mother, Yelena Sharapova and father, Yuri Sharapova, in the Nyagan town of Russia. The fast growth of her career started nine years ago when she made a big sacrifice which can be made by very few children of that young age. She had not even turned ten when she was sent to Florida, USA with her father for training in tennis. She was extremely sad as she had to remain separated from her mother for two years.

Maria was very young and so, she would go to sleep at 8 p.m.. The other students would return at 11p.m. and would wake her up, ordering her to clean the room.

Determined and mentally tough

When a person has nothing, he craves and becomes determined to get it. Maria did not get depressed by all this. Instead she became determined and mentally tough. She never thought of leaving the training because she was determined to achieve her aim. She says that she would have borne greater humiliation and insults in order to achieve her dream.

Secret of success

Tennis fans feel emotional to know about Maria's journey from the frozen region of Siberia but she is not moved by it. She gives straight answers when questioned about her aims which imply that she accepts that the hurdles and challenges she faced were worth the result that she got. She adds that she is competitive and works hard as she considers it to be a part of her work. This is Maria's secret for success.

Patriotism

She says that USA is a big part of her life because she was trained there but in the core of her heart, she is a Russian. She holds the citizenship of Russia, her ancestors are Russians and she is willing to represent Russia at the Olympics too.

Teenage qualities

Like other teenagers of her age, Maria's favourite pastimes are fashion, singing and dancing. She likes to read novels written by Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes. She likes to wear fashionable evening gowns. Looking at her fit body, it is unbelievable that she likes to eat pancakes with chocolate spread and drinks aerated orange flavoured drinks.

Sacrifices bore fruit

Her talent, urge to succeed and sacrificing nature helped her reach the top position in women's tennis. No one will oppose the benefits that she is getting now because she made many sacrifices to get them. She says that money

does motivate her to work hard. Tennis is both a sport and a business but the most important aspect for her was to reach the top spot in women's tennis. It was this dream that kept her working further.

_____The End_____