Touching the Void
Joe Simpson

Vocabulary: meanings of words from the story
1 survival  2 splint  3 cone  4 numb  5 harness  6 altitude  7 stable  8 clip  9 target
10 ledge  11 glacier  12 rescue  13 rumour  14 remote  15 boulder  16 courage

Writing: rewrite sentences
1 This is a story of courage.
2 Our only chance of survival (surviving) was to descend into the crevasse.
3 Because of the cold, my arms and legs were numb.
4 Nobody was going to rescue us.
5 The air was thin because of the (high) altitude.
6 I was on a (narrow) ledge on the side of the mountain.
7 The mass of snow and ice was not stable.
8 The glacier was covered with dangerous crevasses.
9 We chose a large boulder as our target and moved slowly towards it.
10 A hammer was tied to the harness on my back.

Vocabulary & Grammar: fill in the gaps
1 to  2 was  3 last  4 only  5 touched  6 I  7 minutes  8 of  9 glacier  10 the  11 surface
12 crawl  13 it  14 such  15 boulders  16 rucksack  17 and  18 my  19 mat  20 put  21 cut
22 yellow  23 support  24 around  25 straps  26 knee  27 leaned  28 on  29 axe  30 hop
31 got  32 a  33 but  34 tried  35 sometimes  36 fell  37 very  39 looked  40 white

Grammar: syntax
1 It was difficult to breathe because of the altitude.
2 My left leg was caught up in the rope and I kicked it free.
3 He reached into his pocket and brought out some pills.
4 There was no help in this lonely place, far from anywhere.
5 My seat was made of soft fine snow, like sugar.
6 Death would be like a kind of sleep without dreams.
7 I felt that there was something evil in the mountains around me.
8 Suddenly I fell forward and I knew that I could not go on.