

Jahangir Khan—The Conqueror

By the end of the unit, the students will be able to:

- Use pre-reading strategies to predict the content of a text from topic / picture, title / headings, key words and visuals etc. by using prior knowledge, asking questions and contextual clues.
- Skim text to
 - have general idea of the text.
 - infer theme/ main idea.
- Apply critical thinking to interact with text, use intensive reading strategies (while-reading) to
 - scan to answer short questions.
- Use critical thinking to respond orally and in writing to the text (post-reading) to
 - give a personal opinion and justify stance related to viewpoints/ ideas and issues in the text read.
 - relate what is read to his or her own feelings and experiences.
- - explore causes and consequences of a problem or an issue and propose various solutions.
 - evaluate material read.
- Examine and interpret transitional devices that show comparison, contrast, reason, concession, condition, emphasis.
- Identify, analyze and construct conditional sentences.

Jehangir Khan— The Conqueror

"With a little moisture, this soil is extremely fertile."

This line from Allama Muhammad Iqbal seems unquestionably true when we think of people as great as Jahangir Khan.

Jahangir Khan was born in Karachi on December 10th, 1963. He came from a Pushtoon family that originated from a village near Peshawar called Naway Kalay. Jahangir Khan won his spurs in the field of squash so much so that his name and Squash became inseparable, as if they were the two sides of the same coin. Jahangir Khan is considered to be the greatest and fittest player in the history of Squash and his achievements have not been rivalled to date.

This greatest squash player of all time faced many ups and downs in his early life. When a child, Jahangir Khan was physically very weak. He had undergone two surgical procedures for hernia before attaining the age of 12. His doctors, therefore, wanted him not to take part in any sort of physical activities. Nonetheless his high zest and passion to excel could not be fettered by any physical malady. He embarked on the most grueling sport of Squash and through his courage and determination, ultimately prevailed. Another great shock he received was the accidental demise of his elder brother, Torsam Khan who succumbed to heart attack during a match in Australian Open. Torsam Khan was one of his coaches as well—the other two being Roshan Khan, his father and Rahmat Khan, his cousin. Jahangir Khan not only loved him but also, got inspiration from his example. His sudden death could have made Jahangir Khan wrap up all his dreams and quit the game for ever, but for his strong determination, he grew into the most successful player in the history of Squash. Besides, he established fame for his incredible fitness and stamina and was widely known as 'the fittest player' in the world of sports.



On account of his physical weakness from his recent illness, the selectors decided not to select him to play in the World Championship in 1979. All the same, to satiate his unshakable spirit, he instead of giving in, plunged into the World Amateur individual championship, and at the very tender age of just 15 years, became the youngest ever winner of the prestigious event.

At the age of 17, Jahangir Khan, astounded the world by beating the World number one Geoff Hunt of Australia in the final to become the youngest champion of The World Open in 1989. This tremendous victory proved to be the scratch line for the journey of his success that went on as unstoppable as the wind for five hundred and fifty five matches consecutively in the next five years (1981-1986). It is the longest winning streak by any athlete in the top level professional sports as per the record of Guinness Book of World Records. During his distinguished career, he won The World Open Championship for six times and the British Open, a record ten times in a row from 1982 to 1991.



At the end of 1986, another Pakistani athlete named Jan Sher Khan appeared on the horizon of Squash. He went toe to toe with Jahangir Khan and put a real challenge to his domination. Jan Sher Khan was able to capture the 1987 World Open title. Jahangir Khan, however, managed to put an end to Jan Sher Khan's winning streak over him in March 1988. They met in the final of the 1988 World Open, wherein Jahangir Khan stood victorious.

One of the main reasons behind his phenomenal performance was his incredible fitness level which he had attained not without a rigorous training and regular physical exercise. He would start his day with doing a fourteen kilometer jogging in 60-120 minutes followed by short bursts of timed sprint. Then he would take body exercise in the gym and finally cooling down in the pools. He would follow this routine five days a week. On the sixth day, he would do match practice and the seventh day used to be his rest day.

In 1993, following his last match against Jan Sher Khan in the World Open final, this legendary player bade adieu to Squash as a player. But like a fish out of water, he could not stay away for too long. He re-entered the game, though not as a player. In 1997, he was elected as the Vice President of Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) and in November 1998, he became the Vice President of the World Squash Federation. Later, in 2002 and 2004, he held the position of the President of WSF for two terms successively. In 2008, he became Emeritus President of WSF.

The list of the achievements and the awards he grabbed is too long to be enclosed in a few lines. The Government of Pakistan conferred upon him the Pride of Performance award and the Civil Award of "Hilal-e-Imtiaz" (The Crescent of Distinction) for his extra-ordinary achievements in Squash. In 2005, the leading International Magazine "Time" named him as one of their "Asian Heroes" of the last sixty years. The London Metropolitan University granted him the honorary degree of the Doctorate of Philosophy for his contributions to sports in 2007. The Japanese government paid him a solemn tribute by issuing commemorative stamp in his name. In his book, 'Winning Squash', Jahangir Khan writes, "I was told, I would never become World Champion. I was the youngest, the smallest, the feeblest and the sickest of the family." He stated further in his book, "Neither the doctors nor my father believed there was a chance for me to become a good Squash player." However despite such disparaging views and discouraging comments of the world without, he was ignited and boosted up by the world within and he proved himself. He ruled over the world of Squash and, true to his name, was called as "The Conqueror".

Glossary

Word	Meaning
amateur(n)	unpaid; engage in as a pastime.
astound(v)	astonish; affect with wonder.
boost up(v)	push up.
burst(v)	emerge suddenly and energetically.
bid adieu(v)	say goodbye.
confer (v)	bestow; present.
commemorative(adj.)	memorial; intended as an honour.
disparaging(adj.)	derogatory; expressive of low opinion.
demise(n)	death.
domination(n)	supremacy.
embark on(v)	start up.
excel(v)	stand out ; top; go past.
fertile(adj.)	capable of reproducing

fetter(n)	hold; restrain; shackle.
grueling(adj.)	toilsome; that requires much physical effort.
grab(v)	catch; take hold of.
give in(ph.v.)	succumb; yield; now; accept one's defeat.
ignite(v)	arouse feelings and passions.
incredible(adj.)	unbelievable.
in a row	in a series; consecutively.
malady(ies) (n)	ailments; diseases
moisture(n)	wetness
plunge into (v)	begin with vigour.
prevail(n)	predominate; reign.
phenomenal(adj.)	unbelievably great.
rival(v)	compete with
succumb to(v)	give in; now before
stamina(n)	staying power.
sate(v)	to satisfy.
scratch line	starting line; beginning.
streak(n)	an unbroken series of events .
sprint(n)	a quick run.
successively(adv.)	consecutively.
solemn(adj.)	sincere; signifier.
tremendous(adj)	grand; extreme in degree.
toe to toe(idiom)	be able to compete with someone in a strong, determined way.
unshakable(adj.)	steadfast; marked by firm determination.
rigorous(adj.)	follow rules/procedure in a severe way.
win one's spurs(idiom)	to prove one's skill in a particular area.
wrap up(v)	finish off
zest(n)	enthusiasm

Reading Comprehension

1. Why did Jahangir Khan go against his doctors' advice of refraining from taking part in any physical activity?
2. Read paragraph no 6 of the text and say what did Jahangir Khan do to maintain his physical fitness?
3. Give a brief detail of Jahangir Khan's achievements in the light of the text, "Jahangir Khan – the conqueror".
4. Keeping in view the achievements of Jahangir Khan, compare any other national hero in sports with him.
5. An idiom is the expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up. Find out three idiomatic expressions from the text and explain their meanings.
6. What inspiration do you get from the life of Jahangir Khan?

Writing Suggestions

Write an essay on the present state of Squash in Pakistan.

Oral Communication

Divide the students into groups on the basis of the choice of their favourite game. Ask each member to share his reasons in the group for liking the particular game in the group.

Vocabulary and Grammar

Transitional Devices

Transitional devices are like bridges between parts of your paper. They are cues that help the reader to interpret ideas a paper develops. Transitional devices are words or phrases that help carry a thought from one sentence to another, from one idea to another, or from one paragraph to another. And finally, transitional devices link sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas. There are several types of transitional devices, and each category leads readers to make certain connections or assumptions. Some lead readers forward and imply the building of an idea or thought, while others make readers compare ideas or draw conclusions from the preceding thoughts.

Here is a list of some common transitional devices that can be used to cue readers in a given way.

TO ADD:

and, again, and then, besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor, too, next, lastly, what's more, moreover, in addition, first (second, etc.)

TO COMPARE:

whereas, but, yet, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, on the contrary, by comparison, where, compared to, up against, balanced against, vis a vis, but, although, conversely, meanwhile, after all, in contrast, although this may be true, etc.

TO PROVE:

because, for, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently, furthermore, moreover, besides, indeed, in fact, in addition, in any case, that is, etc.

TO SHOW EXCEPTION:

yet, still, however, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, of course, once in a while, sometimes, etc.

TO SHOW TIME:

immediately, thereafter, soon, after a few hours, finally, then, later, previously, formerly, first (second, etc.), next, and then, etc.

TO REPEAT:

in brief, as I have said, as I have noted, as has been noted, etc.

TO EMPHASIZE:

definitely, extremely, obviously, in fact, indeed, in any case, absolutely, positively, naturally, surprisingly, always, forever, perennially, eternally, never, emphatically, unquestionably, without a doubt, certainly, undeniably, without reservation, etc.

TO SHOW SEQUENCE:

first, second, third, and so forth. A, B, C, and so forth. next, then, following this, at this time, now, at this point, after, afterward, subsequently, finally, consequently, previously, before this, simultaneously, concurrently, thus, therefore, hence, next, and then, soon, etc.

TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE:

for example, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration, to illustrate, etc.

TO SUMMARIZE OR CONCLUDE:

in brief, on the whole, summing up, to conclude, in conclusion, as I have shown, as I have said, hence, therefore, accordingly, thus, as a result, consequently, etc.

Activity**A. Fill in the blanks with appropriate transitional word/phrase of different types given in the box**

nearby, similarly, even if, ultimately, in the meantime, consequently, furthermore, in other words

- _____, the teachers were meeting in a closed-door session.
(place and space)
- _____, the harvest dance was also held on a Friday night.
(comparison / contrast)
- _____ the school district pays for half of the students' breakfasts, there still will be those without enough resources to pay for the remaining amount. (cause / purpose)
- _____, no one has more influence on a student's grades than the student himself. (conclusion / summary)
- _____, the library will be closed during lunch. (time / sequence)
- _____, fewer students are able to take courses in the fine arts: music, art, and drama. (effect / result / qualification)
- _____, the student council has unanimously endorsed the revised calendar for the school. (addition / extension)
- _____, a longer school day may provide more opportunities instead of fewer. (example / clarification / emphasis)

B. Use the correct transition words in the blank spaces below from list of transition words in the box.

therefore, for example, consequently, meanwhile, likewise, although

- Tim earned an A on the test; _____, Justin also received an A.
- The book was interesting; _____, it was hard to read.
- Gordon finished his chores early; _____, he had time to play football.
- Sarah's horse is beautiful; _____, it is well-bred.
- The sailors prepared the ship to sail; _____, the dock workers loaded the cargo.
- Her sister had a cold; _____, Julie's family canceled the trip.
- Oranges are good for you; _____, they are full of vitamin C.
- Two seats were left on the bus; _____, most of the group had to wait for the next one.