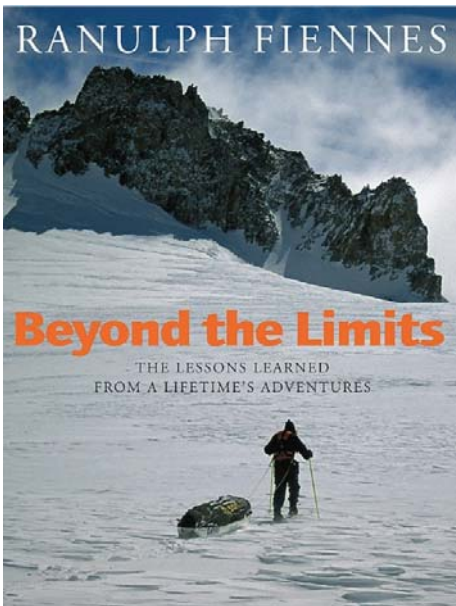


The Literacy Lowdown: Beyond the Limits



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

Summary

Ranulph Fiennes is a venerated British explorer and this book chronicles some of his greatest expeditions. In Dho-far, he learnt the secret of dealing with fear: to “keep a ruthlessly tight clamp on your imagination” whilst survival lessons were endured on expeditions in Norway and the Empty Quarter. In pursuit of being an explorer “who discovered and mapped new territory or travelled where no man had been before” an audacious ‘mad but marvellous’ Transglobe Expedition to circumnavigate the world is a highlight.

© Ranulph Fiennes

Specification links

AQA 3.2.1.5.1 An outline of the contemporary geography, including climate, of Antarctica.

Edexcel 7.2 Patterns of power change over time.

OCR 1.1.3 Option C – Dry Landscapes.

WJEC 4.2.3 Biodiversity under threat.

Key quotes

“Many of the world’s greatest mountaineers have died on their way back down from hazardous ascents. Exhausted, they had dropped their guard. In Dho-far I learned never to relax.” (p18)

“Why do you risk your life on expeditions? I am constantly asked. The popular, romantic answer is a mixture of ‘because it’s there’ or ‘we do it for the country...British explorers have always led the way’, or at least: ‘I love remote places where no man has trod before’. To respond by admitting I need to make a living and that expedition-leading is my livelihood is not always appreciated.” (p30)

“Ginnie spent two months in the archives and map room of the Royal Geographical Society. She found a route [up the Yukon river], by way of nine different rivers, which might take us on an unprecedented 3,000-mile journey.” (p46)

“The thing is so difficult it is not worth attempting. The thing is so difficult I cannot help attempting it.” (p62)

“I think that was the single most satisfactory moment of my life. For three hours we heaved, tugged, paddled, and often lost sight of the ship, but soon after midnight we climbed on board. The [Transglobe] circle was complete.” (p121)

“Seen from outer space it radiates like a great white lantern across the bottom of the world.”