

A Lovely Day In The Mountains



a short story for English
reading and speaking

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Introduction

Does your country have beautiful mountains?

Is it a good idea for married couples to go trekking in the mountains?

What if they were in a strained relationship?

Should they still go trekking? Why/why not?

A Lovely Day In The Mountains

It was just a beautiful view. Sophie wanted to just stop and gaze at it for hours.

But then the sound of her husband Robert's voice. Harsh and impatient.

"Sophie, come on."

Robert stared back at his wife as she struggled up the narrow path.

She stopped at the tiny ledge. She took a breath and gazed out across the crests of mountains that surrounded them.

The view was simply magnificent.

"Can't we just stay here for a minute?" said Sophie. "We could enjoy the view."

"We have to keep moving," he said. "We've got to get to the cabin by sundown. Or we'll be in trouble."

Robert curled his lip at the white tops of the mountain range. Like they were a hindrance to his plans.

"Just one minute, Robert," said Sophie, keeping her voice in check. Not berating him, offering him a very subtle suggestion.

Robert took a deep breath and shook his head.

“Well, we could. But we were delayed back at that footbridge for a while.”

Sophie told herself not to react. Forced herself to keep quiet.

When he said we, he meant her. She had to beg him to just stay a while down at the bridge.

They had come all this way, but hardly had any time to just sit still for a moment and enjoy the view. To look at the beautiful mountains and flowing rivers.

To just gaze in awe at all this nature that surrounded them.

They were always in a rush. And it always seemed to be her that caused any delays or hold-ups.

In her mind, she harboured a constant feeling of guilt or shame.

Like it was her fault for anything that went wrong in their lives together.

Robert turned to face her from just up the pathway.

He smiled down at her. A tight smile that didn't reach his eyes.

“When we get to the cabin, you can have a rest there,” he said.

And it was that. In the choice of words he used.

We — meaning it is a joint effort to get to the cabin.

But **you** — meaning **you** are the one that always needs to rest.

You are the one that always causes delays.

“Okay,” said Sophie.

She didn’t want to argue. But she did want to clear all of this up. It was just that there never seemed to be the right time to talk about it.

It was like Robert knew when she was going to bring the subject up and then he would be the perfect, loving husband.

They continued hiking up the side of the mountain. For a small moment, Sophie lost herself in her thoughts. Drowned out Robert’s passive-aggressive jibes at her.

At the speed that she walked.

The way she walked.

The way she carried her backpack.

Even the colour of it.

Nothing was right for him.

He had a criticism for everything she did and said.

Over the years, it had chipped away at her. Made her doubt herself. Made her feel something different about herself whenever she looked in the mirror.

She loved Robert. But she hated him at the same time.

She thought this was normal. All part of married life.

But then, when she spoke to whatever remaining friends she had — *Robert vetoed many of her old friends* — she found that their husbands didn't have the same effect on them as Robert did on her.

One friend told her how her husband always supported her in everything she did.

How she had joined a class to learn life drawing.

It turned out to be a terrible waste of time, the friend laughed. I am no artist. But my husband gave me full support and encouragement to try it out.

Sophie couldn't understand that kind of relationship at all.

Robert gave her no encouragement for anything she wanted to do.

She had become a broken shell of her former self.

“What are you daydreaming about now?”

Up ahead, Robert was glaring back down at her.

Just because he was at a slightly different altitude didn't change the fact that he was always looking down at her. There wasn't much difference in their height, but he always managed to look down his nose at her.

Another way of belittling her.

Making her feel worthless.

Sophie caught up with him at the ledge where Robert now stood.

“Can we just —”

Robert rolled his eyes at her.

“Just what? Have another rest?”

Sophie tugged the straps of her backpack off her shoulders and let it fall to the floor.

“Well, we hardly stop anywhere. We hardly look at anything.”

Robert stared at her, his mouth curled in absolute contempt.

Then he waved vaguely at the range of mountains in front of them.

“Fine, fine. Do what you want.”

He unstrapped his own backpack and flung it to the ground.

“But you do realise that if we are stuck out here, on the mountain path, and the sun goes down, we will be traipsing about in near total darkness?”

Sophie forced herself to turn and look at him.

“We have plenty of time,” she said.

“Oh, do we?” said Robert. “Well then. Let’s just hang around

here all day then. Let's sit here for a couple of hours."

He took three steps to the ledge.

"If that's what Sophie wants to do, that's what we will do."

Sophie refused to rise to the bait.

"Look, Robert," she said, nodding her head to the pristine white-topped mountains opposite. Below them, a huge ravine descended into a river that appeared to be miles below.

But Robert was in full swing now. She could see that there was no point in appeasing him at all.

"Yes, let's look at the mountains," he said. "That's why we're here, right? To do just what Sophie wants."

He took another step closer to the ledge.

"Be careful," said Sophie.

"Look at all the beautiful mountains —"

Robert took one more step. But he lost his footing. His foot slipped on the stones and pebbles and he went over the edge.

In one fell swoop, he disappeared and fell from Sophie's view.

He made a final gasp — *more of surprise than anything* — and then he was gone.

And instantly, Sophie was overcome with a feeling of great relief.

“Oh no,” she said quietly to herself.

And smiled at the view.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Who are the main characters in the story?

Where does the story take place?

Describe the view that Sophie finds so beautiful in the mountains.

What does Sophie want to do?

How does Robert react to Sophie's desire to stop and enjoy the view?

Why does Robert want to reach the cabin by sundown?

What reason does Robert give for not wanting to stop and admire the view?

What does Sophie observe about Robert's use of the words "we" and "you" when talking about delays?

How does Sophie feel about the constant rush and lack of time to enjoy the scenery?

Do they have time to stop? Or are they always in a hurry?

What negative feelings does Sophie have about herself?

When does Robert think Sophie can have a rest?

Why does Robert use the word 'we'?

And why does he use the word 'you'?

Does Sophie want to have an argument with Robert?

What does she want to do?

How does Robert's behaviour change when Sophie wants to discuss their relationship?

What criticisms does Robert have towards Sophie as they walked up the mountain?

What effect has Robert's criticism had on Sophie over the years?

Does Sophie love Robert? Or does she hate him?

Does Sophie think her marriage to Robert is normal?

Does Sophie still have lots of her old friends? Why/why not?

What did one of Sophie's friends tell her about her own husband?

What hobby does the friend have?

Was the friend good at this hobby?

Did her husband support her doing this hobby or not?

Does Robert support Sophie in anything she does?

How does Sophie regard herself?

What does Robert say Sophie is doing?

Is Robert at a higher point than her? Or lower?

Is Robert much taller than Sophie?

How does Robert always look at Sophie?

How does Sophie feel in the way that Robert looks at her?

What is the significance of Sophie letting her backpack fall to the ground?

How does Robert react when Sophie suggests stopping for a break again?

What are Sophie's reasons for wanting to stop?

Does Robert agree to stop?

What does he do with his own backpack?

What warning does Robert give to Sophie if they spend too much time to stop and rest?

Does Sophie think they have lots of time?

How does Robert react when she suggests this?

Where does Robert move to?

Does Sophie argue with Robert?

What view does Sophie point out to Robert?

How does Robert react?

What does he take a step towards?

What warning does Sophie give to Robert?

What happens to Robert?

Does he make a noise as he falls?

What is Sophie's first reaction?

And how does she respond?

A Lovely Day In The Mountains – story and reading comprehension questions

It was just a beautiful view. Sophie wanted to just stop and gaze at it for hours.

But then the sound of her husband Robert’s voice. Harsh and impatient.

“Sophie, come on.”

Robert stared back at his wife as she struggled up the narrow path.

She stopped at the tiny ledge. She took a breath and gazed out across the crests of mountains that surrounded them.

The view was simply magnificent.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Who are the main characters in the story?

Where does the story take place?

Describe the view that Sophie finds so beautiful in the mountains.

“Can’t we just stay here for a minute?” said Sophie. “We could enjoy the view.”

“We have to keep moving,” he said. “We’ve got to get to the cabin by sundown. Or we’ll be in trouble.”

Robert curled his lip at the white tops of the mountain range. Like they were a hindrance to his plans.

“Just one minute, Robert,” said Sophie, keeping her voice in check. Not berating him, offering him a very subtle suggestion.

Robert took a deep breath and shook his head.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What does Sophie want to do?

How does Robert react to Sophie’s desire to stop and enjoy the view?

Why does Robert want to reach the cabin by sundown?

“Well, we could. But we were delayed back at that footbridge for a while.”

Sophie told herself not to react. Forced herself to keep quiet.

When he said we, he meant her. She had to beg him to just stay a while down at the bridge.

They had come all this way, but hardly had any time to just sit still for a moment and enjoy the view. To look at the beautiful mountains and flowing rivers.

To just gaze in awe at all this nature that surrounded them.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What reason does Robert give for not wanting to stop and admire the view?

What does Sophie observe about Robert's use of the words "we" and "you" when talking about delays?

How does Sophie feel about the constant rush and lack of time to enjoy the scenery?

They were always in a rush. And it always seemed to be her that caused any delays or hold-ups.

In her mind, she harboured a constant feeling of guilt or shame.

Like it was her fault for anything that went wrong in their lives together.

Robert turned to face her from just up the pathway.

He smiled down at her. A tight smile that didn't reach his eyes.

“When we get to the cabin, you can have a rest there,” he said.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Do they have time to stop? Or are they always in a hurry?

What negative feelings does Sophie have about herself?

When does Robert think Sophie can have a rest?

And it was that. In the choice of words he used.

We — meaning it is a joint effort to get to the cabin.

But **you** — meaning **you** are the one that always needs to rest.

You are the one that always causes delays.

“Okay,” said Sophie.

She didn’t want to argue. But she did want to clear all of this up. It was just that there never seemed to be the right time to talk about it.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Why does Robert use the word ‘we’?

And why does he use the word ‘you’?

Does Sophie want to have an argument with Robert?

What does she want to do?

It was like Robert knew when she was going to bring the subject up and then he would be the perfect, loving husband.

They continued hiking up the side of the mountain. For a small moment, Sophie lost herself in her thoughts. Drowned out Robert's passive-aggressive jibes at her.

At the speed that she walked.

The way she walked.

The way she carried her backpack.

Even the colour of it.

Reading Comprehension Questions

How does Robert's behaviour change when Sophie wants to discuss their relationship?

What criticisms does Robert have towards Sophie as she walked up the mountain?

Nothing was right for him.

He had a criticism for everything she did and said.

Over the years, it had chipped away at her. Made her doubt herself. Made her feel something different about herself

whenever she looked in the mirror.

She loved Robert. But she hated him at the same time.

She thought this was normal. All part of married life.

But then, when she spoke to whatever remaining friends she had — *Robert vetoed many of her old friends* — she found that their husbands didn't have the same effect on them as Robert did on her.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What effect has Robert's criticism had on Sophie over the years?

Does Sophie love Robert? Or does she hate him?

Does Sophie think her marriage to Robert is normal?

Does Sophie still have lots of her old friends? Why/why not?

One friend told her how her husband always supported her in everything she did.

How she had joined a class to learn life drawing.

It turned out to be a terrible waste of time, the friend laughed. I am no artist. But my husband gave me full support and encouragement to try it out.

Sophie couldn't understand that kind of relationship at all.

Robert gave her no encouragement for anything she wanted to do.

She had become a broken shell of her former self.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What did one of Sophie's friends tell her about her own husband?

What hobby does the friend have?

Was the friend good at this hobby?

Did her husband support her doing this hobby or not?

Does Robert support Sophie in anything she does?

How does Sophie regard herself?

“What are you daydreaming about now?”

Up ahead, Robert was glaring back down at her.

Just because he was at a slightly different altitude didn't change the fact that he was always looking down at her. There wasn't much difference in their height, but he always managed to look down his nose at her.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What does Robert say Sophie is doing?

Is Robert at a higher point than her? Or lower?

Is Robert much taller than Sophie?

How does Robert always look at Sophie?

Another way of belittling her.

Making her feel worthless.

Sophie caught up with him at the ledge where Robert now stood.

“Can we just —”

Robert rolled his eyes at her.

“Just what? Have another rest?”

Sophie tugged the straps of her backpack off her shoulders and let it fall to the floor.

Reading Comprehension Questions

How does Sophie feel in the way that Robert looks at her?

What is the significance of Sophie letting her backpack fall to the ground?

How does Robert react when Sophie suggests stopping for a

break again?

“Well, we hardly stop anywhere. We hardly look at anything.”

Robert stared at her, his mouth curled in absolute contempt.

Then he waved vaguely at the range of mountains in front of them.

“Fine, fine. Do what you want.”

He unstrapped his own backpack and flung it to the ground.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What are Sophie’s reasons for wanting to stop?

Does Robert agree to stop?

What does he do with his own backpack?

“But you do realise that if we are stuck out here, on the mountain path, and the sun goes down, we will be traipsing about in near total darkness?”

Sophie forced herself to turn and look at him.

“We have plenty of time,” she said.

“Oh, do we?” said Robert. “Well then. Let’s just hang around here all day then. Let’s sit here for a couple of hours.”

He took three steps to the ledge.

“If that’s what Sophie wants to do, that’s what we will do.”

Reading Comprehension Questions

What warning does Robert give to Sophie if they spend too much time to stop and rest?

Does Sophie think they have lots of time?

How does Robert react when she suggests this?

Where does Robert move to?

Sophie refused to rise to the bait.

“Look, Robert,” she said, nodding her head to the pristine white-topped mountains opposite. Below them, a huge ravine descended into a river that appeared to be miles below.

But Robert was in full swing now. She could see that there was no point in appeasing him at all.

“Yes, let’s look at the mountains,” he said. “That’s why we’re here, right? To do just what Sophie wants.”

He took another step closer to the ledge.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Does Sophie argue with Robert?

What view does Sophie point out to Robert?

How does Robert react?

What does he take a step towards?

“Be careful,” said Sophie.

“Look at all the beautiful mountains —”

Robert took one more step. But he lost his footing. His foot slipped on the stones and pebbles and he went over the edge.

In one fell swoop, he disappeared and fell from Sophie’s view.

He made a final gasp — *more of surprise than anything* — and then he was gone.

And instantly, Sophie was overcome with a feeling of great relief.

“Oh no,” she said quietly to herself.

And smiled at the view.

Reading Comprehension Questions

What warning does Sophie give to Robert?

What happens to Robert?

Does he make a noise as he falls?

What is Sophie's first reaction?

And how does she respond?

True or False?

Look at the statements below.

Say whether they are true or false.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan!

True or False: Sophie finds the view of the mountains breathtaking.

True or False: Robert is supportive and encouraging of Sophie's desires and activities.

True or False: Sophie's delay at the footbridge was a result of her own actions.

True or False: Sophie feels guilty and responsible for any delays in their journey.

True or False: Robert and Sophie share a mutual love for the beautiful nature surrounding them.

True or False: Sophie's friends have experienced a similar dynamic with their husbands as Sophie does with Robert.

True or False: Sophie is portrayed as a confident and self-

assured individual.

True or False: Robert frequently criticizes Sophie's every action and choice.

True or False: Sophie had no time to rest and enjoy the view during their journey.

True or False: Sophie perceives Robert's smiles as genuine and loving.

True or False: Sophie's desire to stop and enjoy the view is met with enthusiasm by Robert.

True or False: Robert is generally appreciative of the natural beauty around them.

True or False: Sophie's longing for a moment of rest is dismissed by Robert.

True or False: Sophie's friends admire her relationship with Robert for its mutual support.

True or False: Sophie experiences a sense of relief after Robert falls off the ledge.

Essential Vocabulary

Gaze	Drowned out	Joint effort
Harsh	Jibes	Passive-aggressive
Impatient	Criticism	Altitude
Struggled	Encouragement	Traipsing
Ledge	Waste of time	Darkness
Breath	Vetoed	Pristine
Magnificent	Belittling	Ravine
Sundown	Contempt	Pebbles
Trouble	Bait	Overcome
Hindrance	Appeasing	Implicate
Tight	Gasped	Berating
Reach	Viewpoint	Hindrance
Hike	Footbridge	Doubted
Awe	Hold-ups	

Exercise

Write down all the words and phrases in your vocabulary notebook. Look in your dictionary and find the meaning of each word. Write the definition next to each word.

Then make up your own sentences using each word or phrase.

For example:

Gaze — *a steady intent look.*

Drowned out — *to overwhelm or obscure, usually by sound, making it difficult to hear or see properly.*

Then write a sentence of your own that uses the new word or phrase correctly.

She couldn't help but gaze in awe at the breathtaking beauty of the mountain landscape.

The noise from the construction site drowned out the peaceful sounds of nature.

Do this with all the vocabulary and, over time, this will help improve all your English skills — reading, writing, speaking and listening.

What is the Correct Synonym?

Look at the table below.

Match the words on the left with the correct synonym on the right.

A synonym is a word of similar meaning.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan!

Beautiful	Veiled
Gaze	Irritable
Harsh	Clarify
Impatient	Setbacks
Magnificent	Taunts
Delays	Wonder
Awe	Splendid
Clear	Unpleasant
Passive-aggressive	Breathtaking
Jibes	Stare
Criticism	Disapproval
Relief	Ease

What is the Correct Antonym?

Look at the table below.

Match the words on the left with the correct antonym on the right.

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan!

Beautiful	Pointless
Patience	Fall
Magnificent	Leisure
Rush	Empty
Loving	Opposition
Encouragement	Ordinary
Support	Impatience
Confidence	Ugly
Full	Criticism
Worthwhile	Hateful
Rise	Burden
Relief	Doubt

Missing Words

Look at the table of words below.

Now use ONE word to fill in all the gaps in the sentences below the table.

You can check your answers at the end of the lesson plan!

Gaze	Jibes
Impatient	Encouragement
Crests	Contempt
Magnitude	Bait
Berate	Overcome

Maria's husband provided unwavering _____ as she pursued her dream of starting a small bakery.

Robert's _____ tapping on the table revealed his growing frustration with the delayed meeting.

Emma's tendency to constantly _____ herself for minor mistakes hindered her self-confidence.

After the challenging exam, Alex was _____ with relief, realising he had passed with flying colours.

Sophie paused to _____ at the vibrant sunset over the horizon, mesmerised by its colours.

Despite Mark's playful _____ about her chess skills, Sarah remained focused on the game.

The _____ of the waterfall's roar echoed through the canyon, emphasising its sheer power.

Sarah refused to take the _____ when her colleague attempted to draw her into office gossip.

The mountaineers reached the _____ of the peaks, exhilarated by the breathtaking panoramic views.

Jake couldn't hide his _____ for the poorly written script during the film critique session.

Words and Meanings

Look at the table of words below.

Now match them with the correct meaning in the definitions below the table.

You can check all your answers at the end of the lesson plan!

Gaze	Berating
Impatient	Jibes
Ledge	Contempt
Crests	Traipsing
Hindrance	Pristine

Scolding or criticizing someone angrily.

In its original condition; unspoiled, fresh, or clean.

Walking or moving wearily or reluctantly.

The highest point or ridge of a mountain or hill.

A narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff, or other structure.

Mocking or sarcastic remarks intended to hurt or provoke someone.

To look steadily and intently, often in admiration or wonder.

Restlessly eager or quick to show annoyance or irritation.

Something that provides resistance, delay, or obstruction to progress.

The feeling that someone or something is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving of scorn.

Discussion Questions

What do you think about the setting of the story? Can you imagine yourself in a similar situation in the mountains?

How would you describe Sophie and Robert's relationship based on their interactions in the story?

What emotions do you think Sophie is experiencing throughout the story?

In your opinion, is Robert a supportive husband? Why or why not?

How does the author use the mountain setting to reflect the characters' relationship dynamics?

Why do you think Sophie feels guilty or ashamed at various points in the story?

Can you relate to Sophie's feelings of being rushed and criticized? Share a similar experience if you have one.

What do you think Sophie means when she says, "She loved Robert. But she hated him at the same time"?

Do you think it's common for people in relationships to have conflicting feelings like Sophie's? Why or why not?

Discuss the significance of the mountains in the story. How

does the author use them as a metaphor?

How does Sophie's perception of herself change throughout the story?

Why do you think Robert vetoed many of Sophie's old friends?

What impact might that have on their relationship?

Compare Sophie's friend's relationship with her husband to Sophie and Robert's relationship. What differences do you notice?

Do you think Sophie's reaction to Robert's fall is surprising?

Why or why not?

How does the story explore themes of control and power in relationships?

Analyse Robert's behaviour towards Sophie. What does it reveal about his character?

How does the story portray the concept of compromise in a relationship?

If you were in Sophie's position, would you have smiled at the view after Robert's fall? Why or why not?

Discuss the role of nature in the story. How does it influence the characters and their decisions?

What do you think might happen next in Sophie's life after the

events of the story?

Writing

This is a creative writing exercise.

What Happens Next?

Sophie stood frozen at the edge of the mountain, staring at the space where Robert had just vanished. The wind carried the echo of his surprised gasp, leaving Sophie in a mix of shock and relief. The mountains, once a source of tension, now seemed serene.

In 150-200 words, continue the story.

Describe Sophie's immediate thoughts and actions.

- Does she call for help?
- Does she feel guilt or freedom?
- What happens next?

Write your story about what you think could happen next in the story.

When you have completed your story, read it out loud in front of the class.

You should ask your classmates and teacher for feedback.

Or you can hand your writing in to your teacher for a review.

Reading Comprehension Questions – Answers

These are the correct answers below.

How many did you get right?

Section 1

Who are the main characters in the story?

Sophie and her husband, Robert.

Where does the story take place?

The story takes place on a mountain path surrounded by mountain crests and natural scenery.

Describe the view that Sophie finds so beautiful in the mountains.

Sophie sees a magnificent view across the crests of mountains surrounding them—so beautiful she wants to stop and gaze at it for hours.

Section 2

What does Sophie want to do?

She wants to stop and enjoy the view for a moment.

How does Robert react to Sophie’s desire to stop and enjoy the view?

He responds impatiently, insisting they need to keep moving to reach the cabin before sundown.

Why does Robert want to reach the cabin by sundown?

Because if they don't, they'll be in trouble—implying it will be unsafe or difficult to continue in the dark.

Section 3

What reason does Robert give for not wanting to stop and admire the view?

He says they were already delayed back at the footbridge.

What does Sophie observe about Robert's use of the words "we" and "you" when talking about delays?

She notices that when Robert says "we," he actually means "you"—he blames her for the delays, though he frames it as shared responsibility.

How does Sophie feel about the constant rush and lack of time to enjoy the scenery?

She feels frustrated and disappointed that they never take the time to appreciate the nature around them.

Section 4

Do they have time to stop? Or are they always in a hurry?

They are always in a hurry, and Sophie feels it's always blamed on her if they are delayed.

What negative feelings does Sophie have about herself?

She harbours guilt and shame, feeling that everything that goes wrong is her fault.

When does Robert think Sophie can have a rest?

He tells her she can rest when they get to the cabin.

Section 5

Why does Robert use the word 'we'?

To imply that reaching the cabin is a shared goal or responsibility.

And why does he use the word 'you'?

To single Sophie out as the one who always needs to rest or causes delays.

Does Sophie want to have an argument with Robert?

No, she doesn't want to argue.

What does she want to do?

She wants to talk about the problems in their relationship, but it never feels like the right time.

Section 6

How does Robert's behaviour change when Sophie wants to discuss their relationship?

He suddenly acts like the perfect, loving husband, as if to avoid confrontation.

What criticisms does Robert have towards Sophie as they

walked up the mountain?

He criticizes the speed she walks, the way she walks, how she carries her backpack, and even its colour.

Section 7

What effect has Robert's criticism had on Sophie over the years?

It has worn her down, made her doubt herself, and changed how she sees herself.

Does Sophie love Robert? Or does she hate him?

She feels both—she loves him but also hates him at the same time.

Does Sophie think her marriage to Robert is normal?

She used to think so, but after comparing with others, she starts to realize it might not be.

Does Sophie still have lots of her old friends? Why/why not?

No, many of her friends are gone because Robert disapproved of them and vetoed her friendships.

Section 8

What did one of Sophie's friends tell her about her own husband?

That he always supported her in everything she did.

What hobby does the friend have?

She took a class to learn life drawing.

Was the friend good at this hobby?

No, she wasn't good at it and called it a waste of time, but she still appreciated her husband's support.

Did her husband support her doing this hobby or not?

Yes, he gave her full support and encouragement.

Does Robert support Sophie in anything she does?

No, he offers her no encouragement.

How does Sophie regard herself?

She sees herself as a broken shell of her former self.

Section 9

What does Robert say Sophie is doing?

He accuses her of daydreaming.

Is Robert at a higher point than her? Or lower?

He is at a slightly higher point on the path.

Is Robert much taller than Sophie?

No, there isn't much difference in their height.

How does Robert always look at Sophie?

He always manages to look down on her—both physically and metaphorically.

Section 10

How does Sophie feel in the way that Robert looks at her?

She feels belittled and worthless.

What is the significance of Sophie letting her backpack fall to the ground?

It symbolizes her exhaustion and possibly her quiet rebellion against always carrying the weight—literally and emotionally.

How does Robert react when Sophie suggests stopping for a break again?

He rolls his eyes and mocks her, assuming she wants another rest.

Section 11

What are Sophie's reasons for wanting to stop?

They've barely stopped anywhere to appreciate the surroundings and the beauty of the mountains.

Does Robert agree to stop?

Grudgingly, yes—but with contempt and sarcasm.

What does he do with his own backpack?

He flings it to the ground in frustration.

Section 12

What warning does Robert give to Sophie if they spend too much time to stop and rest?

He warns that they'll be stuck on the mountain path in near-total darkness if they don't get moving.

Does Sophie think they have lots of time?

Yes, she believes they still have plenty of time.

How does Robert react when she suggests this?

Sarcastically, he suggests they hang around all day and do whatever Sophie wants.

Where does Robert move to?

He takes several steps toward the ledge.

Section 13

Does Sophie argue with Robert?

No, she refuses to argue and tries to stay calm.

What view does Sophie point out to Robert?

She gestures to the white-topped mountains and the ravine descending into a river far below.

How does Robert react?

He becomes even more sarcastic, saying they're there to do "just what Sophie wants."

What does he take a step towards?

He takes another step toward the ledge.

Section 14

What warning does Sophie give to Robert?

She tells him to be careful.

What happens to Robert?

He loses his footing on the stones and pebbles and falls over the

edge of the mountain.

Does he make a noise as he falls?

Yes, he makes a gasp—more of surprise than fear.

What is Sophie's first reaction?

She feels a great sense of relief.

And how does she respond?

She quietly says “Oh no,” smiles at the view, and feels a sense of peace.

True or False — Answers

These are the correct answers.

How many did you get right?

True or False: Sophie finds the view of the mountains breathtaking.

Answer: **True**

True or False: Robert is supportive and encouraging of Sophie's desires and activities.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie's delay at the footbridge was a result of her own actions.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie feels guilty and responsible for any delays in their journey.

Answer: **True**

True or False: Robert and Sophie share a mutual love for the beautiful nature surrounding them.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie's friends have experienced a similar dynamic with their husbands as Sophie does with Robert.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie is portrayed as a confident and self-assured individual.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Robert frequently criticizes Sophie's every action and choice.

Answer: **True**

True or False: Sophie had no time to rest and enjoy the view during their journey.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie perceives Robert's smiles as genuine and loving.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie's desire to stop and enjoy the view is met with enthusiasm by Robert.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Robert is generally appreciative of the natural beauty around them.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie's longing for a moment of rest is dismissed by Robert.

Answer: **True**

True or False: Sophie's friends admire her relationship with Robert for its mutual support.

Answer: **False**

True or False: Sophie experiences a sense of relief after Robert falls off the ledge.

Answer: **True**

What is the Correct Synonym — Answers

These are the correct answers.

Were you successful?

Beautiful	Breathtaking
Gaze	Stare
Harsh	Unpleasant
Impatient	Irritable
Magnificent	Splendid
Delays	Setbacks
Awe	Wonder
Clear	Clarify
Passive-aggressive	Veiled
Jibes	Taunts
Criticism	Disapproval
Relief	Ease

What is the Correct Antonym — Answers

These are the correct answers.

Did you get them all correct?

Beautiful	Ugly
Patience	Impatience
Magnificent	Ordinary
Rush	Leisure
Loving	Hateful
Encouragement	Criticism
Support	Opposition
Confidence	Doubt
Full	Empty
Worthwhile	Pointless
Rise	Fall
Relief	Burden

Missing Words — Answers

These are all the correct answers below.

How well did you do?

Gaze: Sophie paused to **gaze** at the vibrant sunset over the horizon, mesmerised by its colours.

Impatient: Robert's **impatient** tapping on the table revealed his growing frustration with the delayed meeting.

Crests: The mountaineers reached the **crests** of the peaks, exhilarated by the breathtaking panoramic views.

Magnitude: The **magnitude** of the waterfall's roar echoed through the canyon, emphasising its sheer power.

Berate: Emma's tendency to constantly **berate** herself for minor mistakes hindered her self-confidence.

Jibes: Despite Mark's playful **jibes** about her chess skills, Sarah remained focused on the game.

Encouragement: Maria's husband provided unwavering **encouragement** as she pursued her dream of starting a small bakery.

Contempt: Jake couldn't hide his **contempt** for the poorly written script during the film critique session.

Bait: Sarah refused to take the **bait** when her colleague

attempted to draw her into office gossip.

Overcome: After the challenging exam, Alex was **overcome** with relief, realising he had passed with flying colours.

Words and Meanings — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

Did you do well?

Gaze

Definition: To look steadily and intently, often in admiration or wonder.

Impatient

Definition: Restlessly eager or quick to show annoyance or irritation.

Ledge

Definition: A narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff, or other structure.

Crests

Definition: The highest point or ridge of a mountain or hill.

Hindrance

Definition: Something that provides resistance, delay, or obstruction to progress.

Berating

Definition: Scolding or criticizing someone angrily.

Jibes

Definition: Mocking or sarcastic remarks intended to hurt or provoke someone.

Contempt

Definition: The feeling that someone or something is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving of scorn.

Traipsing

Definition: Walking or moving wearily or reluctantly.

Pristine

Definition: In its original condition; unspoiled, fresh, or clean.

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