THE STREET Book Page 80 reading





Roller coaster

What is your height OR How tall are

you? F

















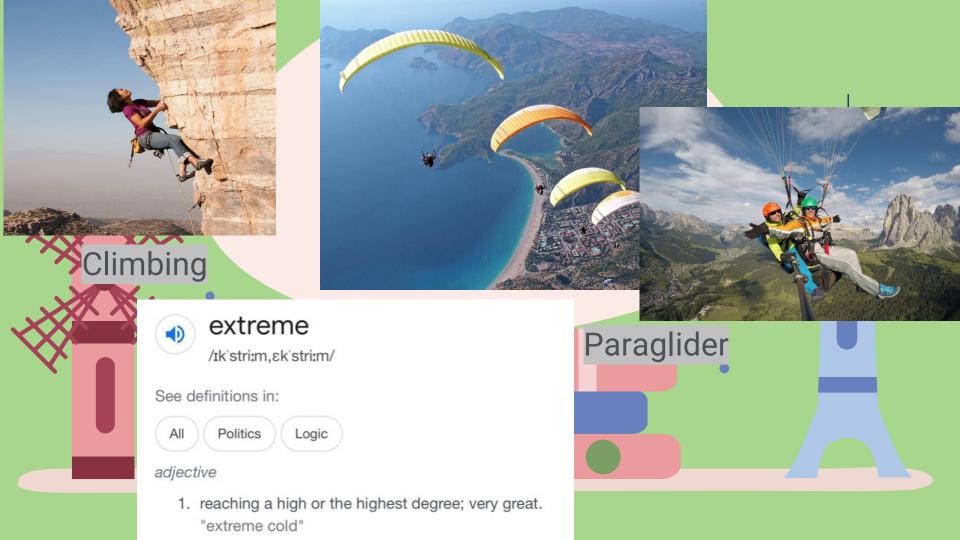














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Why do millions of people love roller coasters? The answer is that people love feeling afraid when they know they're in no real danger. But Jane Clark has never been on a roller coaster. She is frightened of heights and speed. 'It's ridiculous. All my friends have ridden on roller coasters, and they love it,' says Jane. 'I've always wanted to try, but I've never been brave enough.' Well, Jane has decided that today this is going to change. She has bought a ticket for Oblivion and her friends are here to support her. Her heart is beating and she can't speak as she gets in. Then they're off. People are screaming because they're scared, or is it because they're excited? She screams, too. Three minutes later, it's all over. Jane is happy. She's done it! She's been on her first roller coaster. 'Words can't describe it!' she says.

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But for some people, roller coaster phobia never goes away. Psychologist Frank Farley believes that there are two types of people when it comes to fear and risk. Some people prefer the quiet life. For others, danger and excitement make them feel alive. Their brains produce 'feel-good' chemicals in risky situations, and they love extreme sports like climbing or paragliding. Roller coasters are great for these people because they can get the excitement without the danger. The chance of a fatal accident is one in 50 billion. Driving to the amusement park is more dangerous than riding on a 'scream machine'!







