**Banner in the Sky by James Ramsey Ullman Chapter Questions & Vocabulary**

**Chapter 1 –**

1. What is the main character’s name? Rudi Matt

2. Where is the story set? Kurtal, Swiss

3. What is an *Alpenstock*? Long iron-tipped staff used by hikers

4. What is the *Citadel*? One enormous mountain

5. Where is Rudi when he hears the noise? Blue Glacier

**Vocabulary: stile, Auslander, firs, indelibly, marmot, truant, chasm**

Stile: Arrangement of steps that allow human to climb over a fence or wall

Auslander: Tourist

Firs: Coniferous tree with upright cones and flat-needled-shaped leaves, typically arranged in two rows

Indelibly: Creating marks that can’t be removed

Marmot: a heavily built, gregarious, burrowing rodent

Truant: Student that stays away from school without explanation

Chasm: A fissure in the earth, rock and surfaces.

**Chapter 2 –**

1. How does Rudi help? By tying between his staff to jacket to shirt to trousers and pull him up

2. Who is the person? Captain Winter

3. Where did Rudi’s father die? The Citadel

4. Why did the person come to Kurtal? To find guide that would go with him

5. Why does Rudi not want him to tell anyone about what happened? Because if his mom and his uncle Franz knows, he will be in trouble

**Vocabulary: crevasse, pummeled, embedded, imbeciles, reconnoiter**

Crevasse: Deep open crack

Pummeled: Strike repeatedly with fist

Embedded: Fix firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass

Imbeciles: Stupid person

Reconnoiter: Military observation

**Chapter 3 –**

1. Why is Teo no longer a climber? Teo was no longer a climber because he got injured so badly from thirty foot fall and some parts of his body are still paralyzed till now.

2. What does Teo mean by his comments on the bottom of page 41? I think what Teo meant was we cannot control people’s will refers to **’** **bottle the wind’**, if Rudi was willing to be a climber he will try to become one, no matter if his parents and families told him not to.

3. Why is Rudi working in the Beau Site Hotel? Rudi is working at the hotel because his mother wants him to be trained for the business.

4. Who comes to Frau Matt’s house while Franz is scolding Rudi? Captain Winter

5. What opportunity does Rudi get at the end of the chapter? The opportunity that Rudi get was climbing on Wunderhorn with Captain Winter and his uncle.

**Vocabulary: apprentice, shirks, crony**

Apprentice: A person who is learning to trade from a skilled employer and agreed to work for a fixed period

Shirks: Avoid or neglect

Crony: A companion

**Chapter 4 –**

1. What is the importance of the red shirt? It is his father's shirt that he dreams will some day be the flag or banner that he places at the summit of the Citadel

2. What is the gift that Captain Winter gives to him? Ice ax, knapsack and climbing boots

3. How does Frau Matt act when Rudi leaves? Why? She simply looked at him for another moment then went quickly into the house

4. Who is Klaus Wesselhoft? He is an apprentice guide

5. Where are they at the end of the chapter? Blausee Hut

**Vocabulary: decipher, sauntering, unencumbered, hearth**

Decipher: Convert a written code into normal languages

Sauntering; Walk in a slow relaxed pace, without being in hurry

Unencumbered: Free from cares and responsibilities

Hearth: The floor of a fireplace

**Chapter 5 –**

1. What is the greatest honor a guide can give to his client? By allowing an amateur to go first

2. Why does Captain Winter want to come to the Wunderhorn? Because it was hidden below but now it’s plain and clear before them in the brilliant sunlight

3. How high did Rudi’s dad get on the Citadel? The base of the fortress

4. Explain the trouble that Rudi gets himself into. When he was extending his foot slowly and cautiously to the edges of broken rock, he put a part of his weight but then he slipped and when he try again he slipped again. Then he felt dizzy for the very first time

5. What is the “worst sin a mountaineer can commit”? Endanger the lives of his fellow climbers by making them risk their lives to save his own

**Vocabulary: obliquely, mica, cornice, inanimate, pygmies, taut, novice**

Obliquely: Not direct

Mica: Shiny silicate mineral with layered structure

Cornice: Overhanging mass of hardened snow at the edge of mountain precipice

Inanimate: Not alive

Pygmies: A very small thing

Taut: Stretched or pulled tight

Novice: An inexperienced person in a field or situation

**Chapter 6 –**

1. Where does Captain Winter go at the beginning of the chapter? Geneva

2. What does Teo take Rudi to do? Teo teach Rudi how to climb and be a good climber

3. Why did his father wear the red shirt? He know that he would stand on the summit of the citadel, he will take off his shirt and make it as if it’s a flag and the red flag will be seen from all the valleys and cities of Switzerland

4. Why did his father die? He didn’t leave his client that is injured and he take off his shirt to keep his client warm, because of that he froze to death

5. Who leaves Kurtal at the end of the chapter? Captain Winter

**Vocabulary: rappel, withered, assets, atoned**

Rappel: descend a rock face surface by using a doubled rope coiled around the body at a higher point

Withered: Cause damage

Assets: Useful or valuable thing

Atoned: Make reparation

**Chapter 7 –**

1. How has Rudi changed since the incident on the Wunderhorn? He become quite and hopeless of his life

2. What is the most difficult thing for Rudi now? Walking back from his home to the hotel, because his friends question him about what had happened and why his uncle had not taken him climbing again. Also those who were not his friends kept on teasing him

3. Explain what happened with Klaus Wesselhoft. When Rudi was seating on the front step fixing his father’s shirt, Klaus walk by and tease him about doing some crocheting and Rudi hit Klaus, so Klaus responded by giving his fist and give Rudi bloody nose

4. What motivates Rudi to run off? He knows that Captain Winter was in the old hut; he wasn’t gone so he’s going to go there to climb the Citadel

5. What does he take from his uncle’s house? He took his uncle’s climbing gear

**Vocabulary: accursed, rebuff, stoop, foraging, shrine**

Accursed: used to express strong dislike toward someone or something

Rebuff: Reject something in an abrupt manner

Stoop: Porch with steps in front of a house

Foraging: Search widely for provision

Shrine: A place regarded as holy because of its associations with a sacred person, typically marked by a building or other construction

**Chapter 8 –**

1. Where is Rudi going? To the hut where he thinks Captain Winter will stay

2. Who is there when he arrives? Emil Saxo

3. What do they allow him to do? To go with them in reconnoitering

4. What does “it should go” mean?

5. What is the disaster that happens at the end of the chapter? There were white wave tumbling and plunging

**Vocabulary: mote, ramparts, marshal, col, tributary, gradient, apex**

Mote: Tiny piece of a substance

Rampart: A defensive wall, having a broad top with a walk way and typically a stone parapet

Marshal: Arrange or assemble

Col: Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks, typically affording a pass from one side of a mountain range to another

Tributary: A river or stream flowing into a larger river

Gradient: An inclined part of a road

Apex: The top of something

**Chapter 9 –**

1. What does Franz find out is happening? His nephew was gone, and then he found out that Captain Winter was climbing with Emil Saxo of Broli and actually Rudi was climbing with them too

2. How does he realize that Rudi is on the Citadel? Because he was gone and there was three climbers that was going up to the Citadel

3. Why are the Kurtal guides so angry that a man from Broli is climbing the Citadel? Because he is proud, treacherous and a boaster

4. Who motivates the Kurtal guides to go up to the hut? Teo Zurbriggen

5. Who is the sixth person who is going to the hut? Teo Zurbriggen

**Vocabulary: patronized, defiance, swill**

Patronized: Treat with an apparent kindness that betrays a feeling

Defiance: Open resistance; bold disobedience

Swill: Drink in large quantities

**Chapter 10 –**

1. What is Captain Winter’s injury? Bleeding from a gash from in the head because he was flung by the avalanche against a wall of rock

2. Describe the route that Captain Winter wants to take. Go through the snow slope and straightforward rock-climbing

3. What does Winter want Rudi to do? Go back to Kurtal and invite his uncle to climb together

4. Why doesn’t Saxo want Lerner to come? What is Winter’s response? He doesn’t want to climb with a Kurtaler and he also said that Kurtaler are afraid. Winter told him that he is one of the best guide in Switzerland and he can give them much better chance of reaching the top

5. What is the decision that Rudi makes at the end of the chapter? He continues climbing the mountain on his own

**Vocabulary: instinct, encased, mishap, provincial**

Instinct: fixed pattern of behavior in animals in response to certain stimuli

Encased: Enclose or cover in a case

Mishap: An unlucky accident

Provincial: Concerning a province of a country

**Chapter 11 –**

1. Why is Rudy doing this? He wants to set his foot on the top of the Citadel

2. What does Rudi think is warning him? The shadow that he felt behind him

3. Why is Rudi excited to climb to the top of the Fortress? Because he found the “key” to the upper mountain which his father had found fifteen years before

4. What does Rudi learn about the rest of the route? There was no place to stand nor were there any cracks or knobs for handholds

5. What are the shadows? A chamois and a ghost

**Vocabulary: chamois, blasphemy, impregnable, abyss, merged, zenith, prudence**

Chamois: An agile goat-antelope with short hooked horns

Blasphemy: Act or offense of speaking sacrilegiously about sacred things or God

Impregnable: Unable to be captured or broken

Abyss: Deep or seemingly bottomless chasm

Merged: Combine to form a singly entity

Zenith: The highest point reached by a celestial or other project

Prudence: Acting or showing care and thought for the future

**Chapter 12 –**

1. How does Rudi get out of the storm? He had to throw himself flat on the rock

2. After the storm leaves, what is the new problem? He had to think of ways to go down from the cave

3. What layer of clothing saves him? His father’s red flannel shirt

4. What is special about the cave? It’s the cave where his dad and Sir Edward Stephenson froze to death

5. What happened the last time someone descended this ridge? They could no survive

**Vocabulary: opaque, churning**

Opaque: Not able to be seen through

Churning: Encourage frequent turnover in order to generate commission

**Chapter 13 –**

1. What do Winter and Saxo discover when they return to the hut? They saw packs of food and equipment also an obvious sign that the fireplace has been used recently

2. What does Franz accuse Winter of? That Rudi had climb the Citadel with him so he’s suppose to be with him

3. Who does Franz blame for what has happened? Emil Saxo

4. What is the *real* reason Franz has come to the hut? He doesn’t want Saxo to reach to the top of the Citadel

5. Who is going to climb? Captain Winter, Rudi Matt, Emil Saxo, Franz Lerner

**Vocabulary: relapsed, glowered, sullenly, incredulous, turmoil, winced, taunted**

Relapsed: Suffer deterioration after a period of improvement

Glowered: An angry or sullen look

Sullenly: Bad-tempered and gloomy

Incredulous: Unwilling to believe something

Turmoil: State of great disturbance

Winced: Give a slight involuntary shrinking movement of the body out of or in anticipation of pain

Taunted: A remark made in order to anger

**Chapter 14 –**

1. How many nights are they planning for? One

2. What does Rudi insist on bringing along? A four-foot pole

3. What special honor does Winter give Rudi on the way to the Fortress? To take the lead

4. Whose route do they take over the Fortress? Rudi’s

5. What is the next great obstacle? Great shoulder

**Vocabulary: gratitude, resolve, defiant, ominous, forged, desultorily**

Gratitude: Quality of being thankful

Resolve: Decide firmly on a course of action

Defiant: Showing bold disobedience

Ominous: Giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen

Forged: Make or shape a metal object by heating it in a fire and hammering it

Desultorily: Lacking a plan

**Chapter 15 –**

1. What obstacle do they encounter below the shoulder? The paths can’t be climbed and the passage is to narrow

2. Why do they not want to climb in chimneys? They think it’s a funnel and It’s not safe

3. What is Rudi not able to do? How do the men help him? He can’t wedge his knees and elbows into the crack because it was too small. He hauled up the wall

4. How does Rudi save the expedition? He could go through the small passage to the other side and pull the others up

5. Once they reach the top of the Needle, what can they see? The north face plunging away into space; northeast and northwest ridges; beneath them, the snowfields and boulder-slopes, and, still farther down-remote and tiny, but visible at last-the valley and village of Kurtal

**Vocabulary: solitary, precarious, despised, belay**

Solitary: Done or existing alone

Precarious: Not securely held or in position

Despised: feel contempt or a deep repugnance

Belay: fix a running rope to secure it

**Chapter 16 –**

1. What is wrong with Captain Winter? He was shaking, he hold his injured head, he coughed, he have to gasp for breath and stumbling at every step

2. What does Winter ask them to do? He told them to leave him and continue climbing

3. Why will Franz not do what Winter wants them to? Because he said that a good guide does not leave his “Herr” on the mountain

4. What does Saxo decide to do? Climb the mountain alone

5. What does Rudi decide to do? Follow Saxo and reach the summit first

**Vocabulary: bivouac, preeminent, intoxication, tantalizing, receding, impotent**

Bivouac: A temporary camp without tents or cover

Preeminent: surpassing all others

Intoxication: Something that cause people to lose control of their faculties or behavior

Tantalizing: Tease with the sight or promise of something that is unobtainable

Receding: Go or move back of further away from a previous position

Impotent: Unable to take effective action

**Chapter 17 –**

1. What can they see from Kurtal? They saw two black spot a little above the shoulder, on a slope of snow under the summit ridge

2. What does Frau Matt realize? What is her reaction? She realizes that her son is climbing the Citadel. Her lips tremble and her face turns to chalk white but then a quiet calm comes to her and she tell them that she’s not angry, instead she accepts that she must allow her son to live his own life

3. What difficult decision is Franz faced with? When Franz got up, Rudi had disappear and he thinks that he had climb with Saxo so he want to go after him but also he can’t leave Winter that is not in a good condition

4. What does Winter decide to do? He decided to climb together with Franz to go after Rudi and Saxo

5. What do they find on the way up? They found the red flannel shirt that Rudi brought along

**Vocabulary: muted, pitch, ether, staff**

Muted: quiet

Pitch: The steepness of a slope

Ether: The clear sky

Staff: A long stick used as a support when climbing

**Chapter 18 –**

1. What does Saxo say when Rudi asks to join him? He told him to go back

2. What happens to Saxo? He fell and landed on a ledge not more than twenty feet down the face

3. How does Rudi help him? Rudi leaned until one hand reached Saxo’s belt then they cling together

4. What does Rudi do when he sees Franz and Winter climbing above him? He did not call

5. Who made it to the summit? Captain Winter, Franz and Rudi

**Vocabulary: leverage, contorted, ghastly, incapacitated**

Leverage: The extortion of force by means of a lever or an object used in the manner of a lever

Contorted: Twist or bend out of its normal shape

Ghastly: Extremely unwell or causing great horror or fear

Incapacitated: Prevent from functioning in a normal way

**Chapter 19 –**

1. How do Franz and Winter help Saxo and Rudi descend? Rudi crept out of the edge of the projecting rock, let himself over, dangled-and was gently lowered to the platform below. Franz by means of a second rope doubled over a crag, on the platform, Saxo swayed and fell, Winter and Franz picked him up

2. Who is at the bottom of the Fortress? Teo Zurbriggen

3. How does Klaus Wesselhoft treat him differently? He said it awkwardly and shyly

4. What does Saxo say to Rudi? He told Rudi that he had saved his life when he could’ve climbed to the top and so he salute Rudi

5. What was planted on the top of the Citadel? Who put it there? A pole with the red flannel shirt tied to it by its two sleeves

**Vocabulary: lean, haggard, pealed, din, Canton**

Lean: Be in or move into a sloping position

Haggard: Looking exhausted and unwell

Pealed: A loud repeated or reverberating sound of laughter

Din: A loud, unpleasant, and prolonged noise

Canton: A subdivision of a country established for political or administrative purposes