

**AN ASHLEY DAVIES STORY**

# **CLIMB**



**Novel Study**  
**Teacher Copy**

Student's name:

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School Year:

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# Plot Summary

## Part 1 – On Belay

The story takes place in 2005 in the make-believe town of Abbeydale, NSW.

Clara Davies is called to her daughter Ashley Davies' school to discuss the principal's concerns about her transition to high school. She is accompanied by her son, who uses a wheelchair, Cameron Davies. They are interrupted by the janitor informing them that two students are climbing the school water tower during the meeting. Jacob Wills and Ashley Davies have already started climbing it when they reach the water tower. They are informed that it was a dare and that the first one to the top drops the others' phone off. Ashley reaches the top, drops Jacob's phone and returns to the ground. Jacob stops climbing halfway.

Clara informs Ashley that she will repair their driveway as penance in the car ride home. Cameron volunteers to help and, when out of earshot of Clara, makes Ashley promise that she will focus on her schoolwork stay out of trouble.

On the bus to school, Ashley sees that Jacob has been affected by losing the water tower climb and has become the target of bullies. When she arrives, the school janitor informs her that she is a good climber and gives her a beginner rock climbing book. She tells him that she can't climb until she finishes school. Ashley joins the school literature club, where she meets Candice and Emily, who have converted the ugly school barn into a small house. Ashley is content. Candice drives Ashley home afterwards and informs Ashley that Cameron used to be a celebrity in the town. Ashley is confused.

Ashley asks Cameron to explain what Candice meant, and he and Clara clarify that her dad isn't around anymore because Clara told him to leave. They tell Ashley that her father lives in Sydney now. Before waiting for an explanation, Ashley becomes infuriated and walks out. When she wakes up the next day, Ashley attempts to apologise for her outburst. However, her mother isn't at home but leaves a note saying Cameron is in charge until she returns.

Ashley attempts to focus at school but is asked on a date by a boy named Kyle. They arrange a date for that afternoon at the town centre. The school janitor informs Ashley of a rock climbing competition in Sydney. Seeing the opportunity to find her father, Ashley agrees to after school training.

Ashley finds Candice visiting and trying to sweet-talk Cameron when she arrives home. When Ashley says she has a date, Candice tells her that she wants to get her ready. Leaving her regular oversized shirts and jeans, Ashley wears a dress for the first time. Cameron notices that his sister is behaving out of character to try and please other people and becomes frustrated but does not say anything. Cameron packs a backpack for Ashley to take with her. Candice drives Ashley into town. Before Kyle arrives, Jacob and his older brother Alex find Ashley in town and pour liquid compost onto her. When Kyle arrives, they go to the barn where Literature Club was held. Ashley cleans off and changes into a spare pair of jeans and an oversized shirt her brother packed for her.

Ashley and Kyle climb a tree and hold hands. When they return to town, Kyle researches Cameron on his new phone and discovers the website Davies Devils – a company with Cameron's picture in it that was disbanded over a decade before. Kyle is picked up by his father, and Ashley finds a bicycle, which she rides home. The next day, Ashley goes to school to find that Kyle won't talk to her or sit near her in class. At the end of the day, she attends a climbing lesson with Ethan (the school janitor). She is surprised to see that Jacob has been invited too. Ashley and Jacob refuse to acknowledge each other. Ethan explains that the qualifications are in Bathurst in a few months.

William Mayberry drives Ashley home. He drops her at the end of the driveway.

Clara has returned, and Ashley, Clara and Cameron go to dinner at the town pub. When they are there, Clara mentions Chelsea, Cameron's ex-girlfriend. He changes the subject. Ashley is approached by Kyles dad, who tells her to stay away from his son. Kyle's dad is told to leave the pub. Kyle wishes Ashley luck with her climbing. Cameron overhears it and demands to know what climbing thing Kyle is talking about.

# Plot Summary

## Part 2 – No Gear, No Fall

Ashley continues her climbing lessons with Ethan and Jacob. They learn about climbing gear and techniques. Ashley forges her brothers signature for a permission note to go to a local rock climbing area. William Mayberry, Ethan, Jacob and Ashley visit 'the tombstones', a local climbing area outside town. Ashley learns how to climb on natural rocks but struggles when told to work with Jacob. Mayberry helps her set up her climb and informs her that she has more in common with Jacob than she thinks... but that he doesn't feel it is his place to tell her. At school, Ashley finds a necklace made from a piece of climbing gear in her locker and a note from Kyle asking her to meet him at lunchtime. She meets him in a tree and thanks him for the necklace. He explains that his mother lives near the tombstones with her new partner, a woman. Ashley realises why Kyles father was angry with how she dressed and acknowledged his sadness. Kyle explains to Ashley that Jacob came to the rocks to practice with his sister, Chelsea. Ashley is so alarmed that she falls out of the tree.

Ashley wakes up in Ethan's house with a plastered ankle. Ethan explains that he is William Mayberry's brother and is only in town to assist with their mum's funeral and make sure that William is coping. Clara and Ethan argue about whether climbing is safe. Clara thanks Ethan for the hospitality and helping Ashley but leaves the house with Ashley angrily. While Ashley is in recovery at home with Cameron, Jacob visits to drop off supplies to help her recover. He tells her that he only wants her to recover so that he can beat her fairly. Cameron greets Jacob, and Jacob freezes. Jacob recognises Cameron as the man that hurt his sister and has trouble talking. Cameron leaves uncomfortably, and Jacob returns to the car, where his brother Alex comforts him. Ashley tells Cameron that she knows about Chelsea. Cameron tells her the story of how he and Chelsea became disabled. He explains that their father had a daredevil company and his accident caused an explosion that resulted in his and Chelsea's injuries. He explains that they haven't spoken since.

Ashley plans with Kyle to create a school excursion to the show so that they can get there without arousing suspicion. They design and create posters. Cameron suggests that they invite Kyles's dad to the show. This would guarantee that Clara didn't find out and would also show him that Kyle still cared for him. When Ashley is healed enough to return to school, they go in early to put up posters. Alex finds them and bullies Kyle and Ashley. Clara sees it and pushes Alex to the floor. Alex yells that he is only trying to protect his brother from being further bullied by Ashley. Ashley identifies the negative impact her actions had on Jacob and Cameron had on Chelsea. Mayberry sees the altercation and sends Alex and Clara to his office. As the qualification grows closer, Ashley becomes nervous and realises that she has nobody to belay her in the qualification. Kyle volunteers to learn how to do it.



# Plot Summary

## Part 3 - Grippped

Ashley teaches him how to belay, and he belays her at the tombstones. When his knot becomes jammed, Kyle panics but is helped by Ethan, who gives him new gear. Ethan leaves before Ashley has a chance to talk to him. Ashley returns to the water tower the day before the qualification. This time she ties a rope with her in case she falls. When she reaches the top, Jacob is already there. They discuss how much has changed since the last time they climbed the water tower. Ashley admits that she has never taken a fall when climbing. She says that she wants to know how it feels. Jacob kisses her. She throws herself off the water tower to be caught by the rope. The rope catches her but is slowly being cut on a sharp edge. Jacob runs to find Ethan. Ashley frees herself from the rope but is stuck on the crumbling water tower. Jacob returns with Alex, who helps her to the ground and then drives off.

On their graduation day, Candice and Emily get drunk, and Ashley explains to Candice why Cameron can't be with her. Emily tries to give Ashley a tattoo, and when Ashley refuses, Emily says that she saw her on top of the water tower with Jacob. Kyle overhears this and leaves, leaving his bag with his asthma inhaler behind. The next day, Ashley is up early to pack for her trip to the show. Clara interrogates her and informs her that she will be chaperoning the excursion. When they arrive, Ethan signs up Jacob and Ashley, and Clara surprises Ashley by explaining that she would be her sponsor for the competition and that she had known all along. Ashley still can't find Kyle to return his inhaler. Jacob climbs very well and runs to hug Chelsea in the crowd. Ashley sees Chelsea for the first time and notices that she has an artificial leg and arm. Ashley climbs well but falls off because of a pain in her ankle. Ethan assesses her ankle, and Ashley explains that the pain had left as suddenly as it had started.

Ashley spots Kyle in the crowd and runs to give him his inhaler. He runs away from her, still angry that she kissed Jacob. He hides in the Ferris wheel but has an asthma attack. Ashley forces the Ferris wheel to speed up, breaking it. Ashley has to climb to the carriage, where Kyle gets his inhaler. She uses her necklace as a bolt plate to place protection if she falls. When they return to the ground, Kyle's father apologises to Ashley, and Kyle is hospitalised.

The results are in, and Jacob beats Ashley for the top spot by one point. Jacob is announced as the qualification champion going to Sydney for the Nationals. Relieved that the year is over, Ashley sits against a wall to relax. She is joined by Krystal, an elite climber who tells her that she will sponsor her to go to nationals, even though she didn't win the qualification. Ethan visits Clara's house to say goodbye. He is heading off now that he knows that his brother is well. It is shown that Ethan and Clara have been together the entire year, but they wanted to keep it secret from the children. Chelsea arrives in a ute and asks to see Cameron, who is not there. Chelsea asks Clara to message Cameron that she misses him and wants to meet to catch up. Ethan leaves.

# Pre-Reading

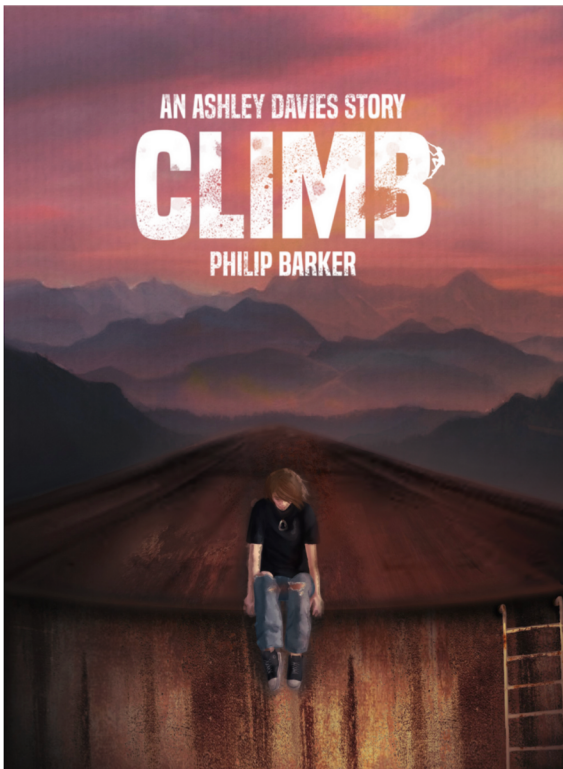
## Vocabulary -

**Predict** - An act of saying what will or might happen in the future.

**Foreground** - The part of a view that is nearest to the observer, especially in a picture or photograph.

**Middle Ground** - The middle distance of a painting or photograph.

**Background** - The part of a picture, scene, or design that forms a setting for the main figures or objects, or appears furthest from the viewer.



**Name three objects you can see in this poster**

### Foreground

- *Water Tower*

### Middle Ground

- *Girl or Boy sitting*

### Background

- *Mountains*

**Predict what you think they symbolise**

**Based on the colours used, predict what kind of book you think this will be**

**Based on the colours used, what kind of book do you think this will be?**

**What can you tell about the character in the image based on their appearance?**

**The title, Climb, could mean both physical or metaphorical. What could it mean...**

**Physically** - Go or come up a (slope or staircase); ascend.

**Metaphorically** - Increase in scale, value, or power.

**Final Prediction - What do you think this book will be about?**



# CONTEXT

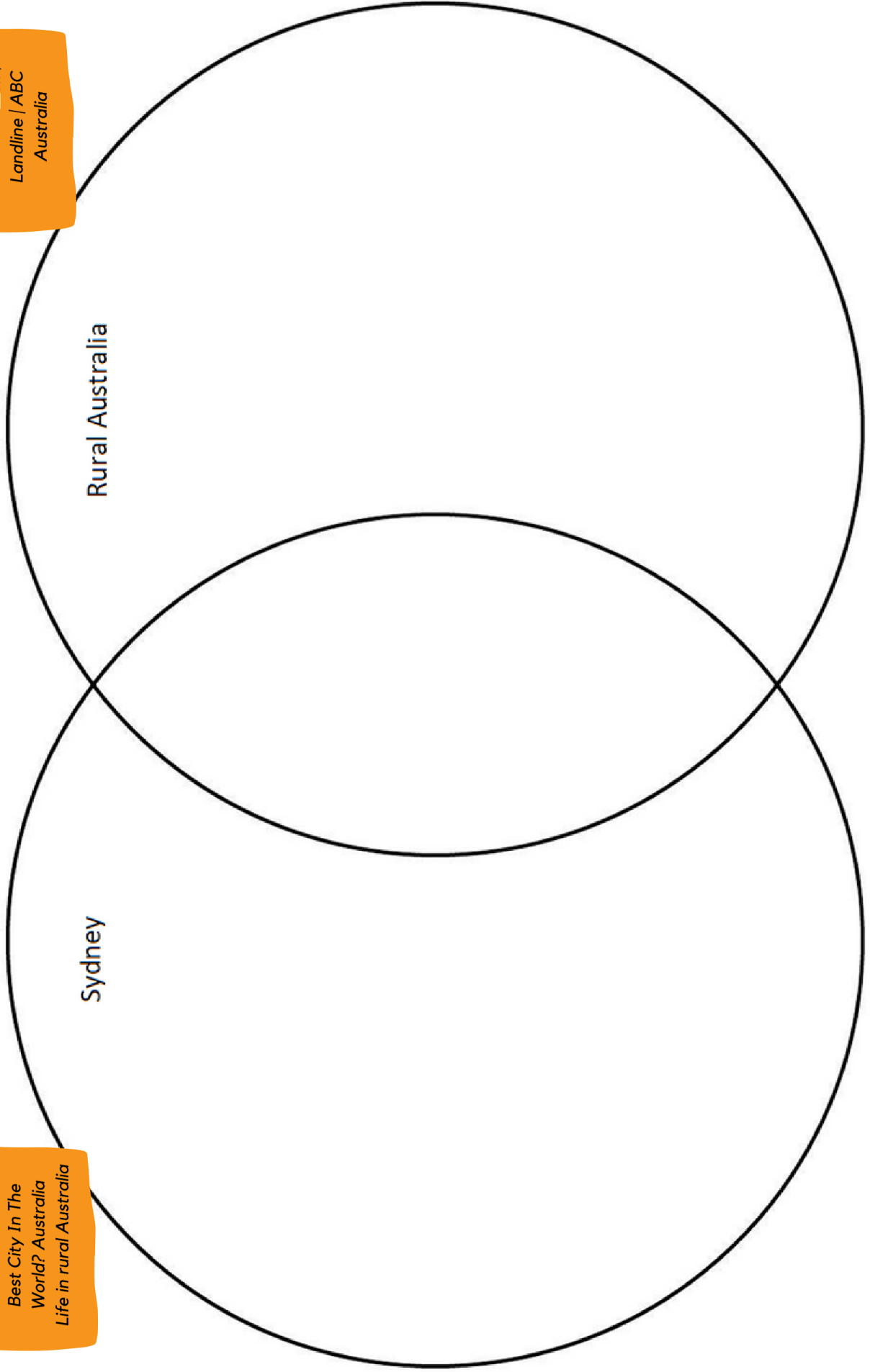


Life in SYDNEY! Cost of living, Lifestyle, Jobs, Attractions! Best City In The World? Australia Life in rural Australia

## Context - Australian Life



Outback Australian roadhouse - food and respite for weary travellers 🇦🇺 | Landline | ABC Australia



READ CHAPTER 1

# Abbeydale

SETTING

Research - Is Abbeydale a real town in Australia? Yes/No

## Extract - Page 7

The grounds of Abbeydale High School were vast and the water tower stood somewhat less than majestically in the centre.

The incredible yellow grasslands surrounding the property were - as always - devoid of all life, making them appear to stretch forever into the distance. Abbeydale wasn't the kind of place where you could expect to find manicured lawns and pop-up sprinklers. It was several hours to the nearest central town and had been in drought for many years.

## Extract - Page 10

... She stood up for a moment and peered at her surroundings. The flat, dry plains of her hometown stretched forever before her.

Task - Draw what the town of Abbeydale looks like to you



Then – Define *Situational Irony*

**Question** – If this book is about rock climbing, why is it **ironic** that it is set in Abbeydale?



*Situational irony:*  
The opposite of  
what you think -  
Christopher  
Warner



## Vocabulary -

**Protagonist** - The leading character or one of the major characters in a play, film, novel, etc.

### Extract - Page 8

High above them, comfortably perched on a rusty iron ladder, Ashley Davies glared down on the congregation that had formed below her. With a deep breath, she hung herself precariously off the side of the ladder to gain a better view of her opponent Jacob's progress. A smile grew on her face as she made out the image of a boy climbing down the opposing ladder, his football jersey stained with sweat and his eyes wide with fear.

She laughed approvingly to herself and looked down to the ground. The world beneath her beckoned, waiting for the opportunity to pull her down to it. Despite this, the smile on her face broadened as she effortlessly swung back onto the ladder, climbed the last few rungs and hauled herself over the top of the tower's scorching metal surface. As she felt her feet hit the solid roof, she fell to her knees and rolled onto her back, spreading out over the corrugated surface and feeling completely safe, alone and at peace.

She could feel the smouldering surface on her back and the sun beating down from above, but thanks to a lifetime of being outdoors in rural Australia, her skin - once soft and pale - had grown thick and tanned. Her body was small but tightly muscled. She stood up for a moment and peered at her surroundings. The flat, dry plains of her hometown stretched forever before her. Closing her eyes, Ashley began to picture mountains in the distance, with beautiful, red cliffs and welcoming green trees.

Reaching into her pocket, she pulled out the small mobile phone with a black, rubber case. On the back, she saw the name Jacob Wills scratched into the plastic. She wrestled the case off and walked across the roof. Looking over the edge, she could barely make out the crowd below her. 'Time to fly.' She announced, holding it at arm's length over the edge...

### Complete your chapter 1 Plot Summary

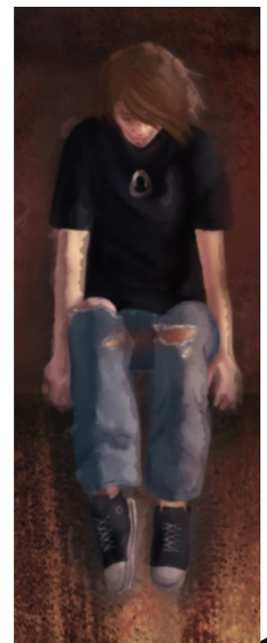
What is your first impression of Ashley?

Do you think that she will be the protagonist in this story?

Why?/Why not?

What does Ashley physically look like?

What kind of personality do you think she has? Why do you think this?





## Vocabulary -

**Secondary Character** - This character reveals key details, motivates the protagonist, foils the protagonist, or helps define the story's setting.

## Extract - Page 19

Cameron didn't ask the question again. He just gazed at the ground until Ashley softly replied, 'He said it was your fault you're in a wheelchair. He said you deserved to die...' Several moments passed in painful silence...until Cameron's shoulders hunched, and his hands clenched on his knees. He grabbed the wheels of his chair and quickly redirected himself toward the house. Ashley saw his eyes glisten as he tried to turn the wheels, but a large rock had lodged between one of the spokes. After unsuccessfully trying to dislodge it by turning the wheels harder, he aggressively hit the wheel and cursed. Ashley kicked the rock out with well-practised precision and pushed the chair slowly toward the house. Cameron's head was in his hands, the small sections Ashley could see through them turning red.

As they reached the ramp to the front door, Cameron grabbed the wheels with both his hands, causing it to brake instantly, knocking Ashley off-balance. Without looking up she heard him command, 'Promise me you won't put your life in danger like that again just to prove a point!' His voice grew angrier. 'Don't you ever use me as your excuse either! You're going to have enough of your own battles to fight in life without trying to defend me as well.'

Cameron didn't move his hands. He just repeated, 'Promise me!'

## Complete your Chapter 2 Plot Summary

What is your impression of Cameron?

What is his relationship to the protagonist?

What mystery does Cameron introduce to the story?

What kind of personality do you think he has? Why do you think this?





READ CHAPTER 3

# Ethan

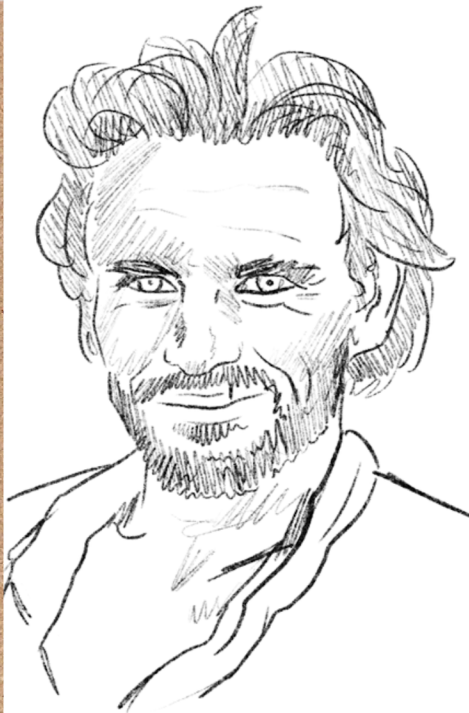
CHARACTER

## Vocabulary -

**Direct Characterisation** – Direct characterization tells the reader or viewer directly. Example – 'She felt happy.'

**Indirect Characterisation** – The writer reveals information about a character's personality through his/her words, actions, and thoughts, along with other characters' responses to that character (what they say and think about him/her).

Direct



Indirect

### Complete your Chapter 3 Plot Summary

Complete the table with examples from Chapter 3 of 'Direct' and 'Indirect' Characterisation.

If you were Ashley, would you trust Ethan? Why/Why not?



READ CHAPTER 4

# Normality

THEME

## Extract - Page 19

...she almost collided with two senior girls leaning stylishly on a very cute, old red Volkswagen Beetle. Hardly acknowledging her presence, the girls simply treated her to the famous you-aren't-supposed-to-be-here stare very popular amongst senior students. They exemplified teenage rebellion, their uniforms worn in a half-proud, half-defiant style consisting of remarkably high skirts, untucked shirts and ties loosened fashionably.

Ashley had always admired women who dressed to accentuate their figure but struggled every time her mother brought her shorts and singlet tops from the girls' section, opting instead for old denim jeans and oversized shirts. After a few years, her mother had abandoned the idea entirely (save for a few items here and there) and let her loose at monthly car boot sales. She always opted for boys

clothes, as her mother referred to them. It wasn't until she started high school - when she started to see everyone dressing to show off their developing bodies - that it had even occurred to her that it was out of the ordinary.

## Complete your Chapter 4 Plot Summary

Think about what a *High School Student* looks like.  
Draw the image that immediately comes to mind

Students share their image of a *normal* student

Does Ashley meet this image of *normal*?

Do you think that even though Ashley was trying to be *normal*, she met two people that meet that definition?





READ CHAPTER 5

# Argument

THEME

## Complete your Chapter 5 Plot Summary

Have you ever had an argument with your family and regretted it?

What factors caused Ashley to become so angry so quickly? (Remember to take school factors into account)

Why do people argue?

Which of these responses did Ashley present in this chapter?



*The Fight Flight  
Freeze  
Response*



## Class Debate

Do you think that Ashley had a right to be angry?

How would you have responded in this situation?



READ CHAPTER 6

**Kyle**

CHARACTER

## Extract - Page 47

Retrieving her from her stupor and causing her to physically shake her head to refocus, a small, friendly voice whispered, 'How can you focus so well? Can you help me?' Ashley looked to her left in the direction of the voice and was greeted by the face of a boy the same age as herself, with spiky, straight blond hair that reminded her of a character from an anime comic she once skimmed.

Staring at her were two giant blue eyes that she found immediately disarming. Ashley didn't reply to the boy, instead finding herself gazing at him as one would a diamond.

Is he real? she thought to herself, still staring intensely with her mouth slightly open.

He continued uneasily, 'We've been in this class together for half a year now and I've never seen you open a textbook. But today you seem to understand everything! Are you a witch? Or just super-intelligent?' He flashed her a dorky, genuine smile that begged her desperately to respond to his quip.

## Complete Chapter 6 Plot Summary

Do you think Kyle would have spoken to Ashley if she hadn't had her 'change of attitude?

Make a list of Kyles physical characteristics.

How has the author used dialogue to introduce this character? Do you think that this was effective or ineffective?



READ CHAPTER 7

# Appearance

THEME

## Complete chapter 7 Plot Summary

In this chapter, Candice behaves differently to try and impress Cameron, and Ashley tries a new look to impress Kyle.

**Discussion** - Why do people behave differently when they want to impress someone?

### Extract - Page 47

...Cameron was sitting with his back against a wall. In his lap sat a copy of *Pygmalion*, which Ashley assumed had been selected for comic emphasis.

...'You look...' he paused, 'like you are trying a new thing. You look confident and you look resilient.' She didn't realise until much later that he never said 'pretty' or 'radiant' or 'beautiful'.

### Related Text - *Pygmalion*

What is *Pygmalion*?

Up to this point, Cameron has seemed quite aloof in comparison to his sister.


What does this choice of complex text tell us about his level of education?

By holding this book at this time, what is he saying about his sister?

Do you think he is happy about this? Why?/Why not?

### Did you notice:

Even though this chapter is focused on Ashley, it seems to tell us much more about Cameron through his reactions to her.

  
*Pygmalion*  
Summary  
and  
*The Pygmalion*  
Effect



**Opinion** - Does Cameron support his sister changing her appearance before a date?



READ CHAPTER 8

# Antagonists

CHARACTER

**Antagonist** - a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary.  
**Catalyst** - a person or thing that precipitates an event.

## Extract - Page 65

'Alex. You know she cheated!' Ashley heard Jacob's desperate, small voice reply. The same defensive voice that she heard on the bus. She already longed for the old Jacob, who would simply laugh at other people's misfortune. This new Jacob terrified her.



How has Jacob changed since chapter 1?

What do you think was the **catalyst** for this change?

Who is Alex? What have we learnt about him from this first meeting?

Do you think that this would have happened if Jacob was female and Ashley was male?

THEME

## Gender

What does a 'man' and a 'woman' look like?

Do you think that Jacob felt more ashamed because he was beaten *by a girl*?

Do you think that Alex *assumed* Jacob would be embarrassed because he was beaten *by a girl*?

## Extract - Page 66

'Now's your chance to get some of that dignity back, little brother. Show her what we do to liars and cheats in this town. Don't be put off just because she decided to dress like a girl for once. She's still gonna be that pathetic little cheat you know she is.'

## Class Discussion -

Think about the boys and girls you know. Do you think that there is a certain way that men and women are supposed to behave? Why? Why not?



READ CHAPTER 9

# Monologues

TECHNIQUE

## Vocabulary -

**Monologue** - monologue, in literature and drama, an extended speech by one person.

Monologues serve a specific purpose in storytelling—to give the audience more details about a character or about the plot. Used carefully, they are a great way to share the internal thoughts or backstory of a character or to give more specific details about the plot.

### Extract - Page 83

'Yeah, well...my family have always been crazy. Everyone except my big sister. She was just...cool. When I was really young she used to take me out on her motorbike. We had the best time...My brother wasn't as into it as she was. He was always the quiet one, sitting in his room reading all day. We were happy. I never even saw her frown. Not until she met this boy. This boy was nearly as crazy as she was. They worked together ...'

'Then something happened at work. Something that stopped her from ever doing what she loved ever again. She doesn't do any of that anymore. She just sits around the house. I can't even remember the last time I saw her smile. I just want to see her smile. And if I win this...she will have a reason to be proud of our family again.'

## Complete Chapter 9 Plot Summary

What do we learn about Jacob from this monologue?

What do we learn about Ashley from how she responds to this monologue?

Has your impression of Jacob changed at all? Why?

Why did Ethan invite both of them to train together?

Predict what you think will happen between Ashley and Jacob.

Does this justify what Jacob did the night before?



READ CHAPTER 10

# Family Disputes

THEME

## Complete chapter 10 Plot Summary

In this chapter, Kyle is faced with the choice to believe what his father believes, or to tell him he is wrong.

This is a situation that lots of young people find themselves stuck.

Why does Kyle tell Ashley that he doesn't want to see her anymore?

Make a list of the things about Ashley that might not be considered 'normal'.

Is there anything that seems 'normal' that you disagree with?

Are you allowed to disagree with your parents?



5 Ways to Respectfully Disagree - How to Disagree politely

TECHNIQUE

# Slang

READ CHAPTER 11

## Complete chapter 11 Plot Summary

Starting with this chapter the reader is bombarded with a whole new collection of words. This is 'climbing slang'. As each of these words comes up, flick to the vocabulary in the front of the book and write the definition.



Every Climbing Term Explained in 2 MINUTES | Louis Parkinson

What is slang?

Can you think of 10 'groups' in society that would use slang? (eg. rock climbers, students etc.)

How do you think slang is used to make people feel included in societal groups?



READ CHAPTER 12

# Motif

TECHNIQUE

## Vocabulary -

**Motif** - In narrative, a motif is a distinctive repeating feature or idea; often, it helps develop other narrative aspects such as theme or mood. A narrative motif can be created through the use of imagery, structural components, language, and other elements throughout literature.

### Safety

Unlike most sports, outdoor Rock Climbing can kill you. The novel constantly references this as well as the repercussions for if you survive after a bad fall. There is even a warning at the start of the novel about this.



### Extract - Page 83

'We have roughly two months before the qualifications in Bathurst and you will need to climb a wall twice the size of those. Needless to say, once you get higher than your head from the ground, you don't want to fall. If you die, it doesn't really matter if you qualify or not.'

Ashley laughed lightly at the terrible joke. Jacob didn't react. His face was completely drained of colour.

## Complete chapter 12 Plot Summary

Can you think of any other times the motif 'safety' has been presented in the novel so far?

Why do you think the crag is called the tombstones?

Does Mayberry know what happened to her brother? If he does... why won't he tell her?

### Then

Draw the 'tombstones' crag, based on the description given on pg 109 and 110. Incorporate adjectives from the text into your drawing.



READ CHAPTER 13

# Symbol

TECHNIQUE

## Vocabulary -

**Symbol** - a thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.



## Bolt Plates - An Australian Icon

The carrot is a hex-headed machine bolt without a fixed hangar. It's iconic to Australian climbers, and horrifying to visitors.

For more information visit:

<https://www.climbing.com/places/the-carrot-bolt-an-australian-icon/>



In case you were wondering...  
The marmalade reference is to a series of children's books called *Paddington Bear*

## Complete Chapter 13 Plot Summary



THEME

# Homophobia

### Extract - Pg 129

'He didn't care about you. It was about me. He doesn't want me...' He changed his tone and suddenly became very grave. 'My mum left him for a woman. She's really nice. Her name is Kate. He didn't like that it made me look...yeah.'

Why was Kyle's dad angry?

Do you think that he is homophobic in general or just in this situation?

What is homophobia and why is it a problem?

What are your thoughts on this topic?



Why are people homophobic? | What's Behind Prejudice? Episode 2 | BBC Ideas

READ CHAPTER 14

# Challenges and Tests

THEME

## Complete Chapter 14 Plot Summary

### Extract - Pg 133

"No!" she whimpered. And for the first time in years, she felt her chest heave and tears poured from her eyes. 'Stupid! Stupid! Stupid!' she repeated over and over again with eyes clenched shut. Her body felt cold, and her head swam.

There goes any chance of qualifying at Bathurst. There goes any chance of Cameron being proud of her. There goes that smile that she had become so fond of over the past few weeks. There goes any chance of meeting her father. All because she COULDN'T STAY IN A STUPID TREE!

1. Identify the challenge that the author has placed in Ashley's path.
2. Where did she wake up? Based on her initial reaction, would you expect Ethan to live there?
3. What do we learn about Ethan in this chapter?
4. Ashley notices that the story Ethan tells Clara about his childhood is different from the one that he told her and Jacob. Why do you think he did this?
5. Did you make the connection to how Mayberry was presented in the first chapter? What was it?
6. Based on how Ashley reacts to her injury, has your opinion about her changed?



### Creative Writing

Have you ever had a major injury? Think back to when you first noticed that you had hurt yourself and write your reaction.



READ CHAPTER 15

# Character Motivations

THINK

## Complete Chapter 15 Plot Summary

It is very rare that a character expresses their motivations as clearly as Jacob does in this chapter, but that doesn't mean they aren't important in every story.

Character motivation is important because it tells us why we are following a story at a certain point in time and it tells us why a character might be making the decisions they do.

Character	Motivation
Ashley Davies	To qualify for the Sydney Climbing Nationals To reconnect with her father To make her brother proud To prove to herself that she is worthy To beat Jacob
Cameron Davies	To assist his sister in achieving her goal To 'pass the family torch' on to the next worthy candidate To make his sister proud of him
Jacob Wills	To qualify for the Sydney Climbing Nationals To beat Ashley To make his sister proud
Kyle Donohue	To get to know Ashley To spend time with his new friend
Ethan Mayberry	?

Opinion - Can you figure out Ethan's motivation for helping Ashley and Jacob?

READ CHAPTER 16

# Dialogue

TECHNIQUE

## Extract - Pg 157

"Where do I begin?" Cameron asked.

Ashley knew exactly. She had formed the questions months before; they had just been sitting in her loaded question chamber, waiting for the right time to fire.

'Okay, first of all - why do Jacob and Alex hate you so much?'

'Do you want the long version or the short version?'

'Short.'

'I messed up badly and it hurt someone they care about.'

'Good! Now long,' Ashley amended.

'Then I'll have to put the kettle on.'

## Complete Chapter 16 Plot Summary

1. Why does Cameron tell her *this* time, when he has deflected answering any questions before?
2. What does Ashley learn about her brother and her family in this chapter?
3. Do you understand why Cameron didn't want to talk about it?



**Opinion** - Is it better to keep shameful secrets to yourself or to talk about them?



Why Keeping a  
Big Secret Is  
Worse Than You  
Think

## Just Think About It...

Are there any secrets that you couldn't tell anybody?  
What is it that makes you think you can't share them?



READ CHAPTER 17

# Conflict

TECHNIQUE

## Complete Chapter 17 Plot Summary

After reading this chapter, complete Alex Wills motivations for bullying Ashley.

Character	Motivation
Alex Wills	To avenge Jacob. Standing up for his family in the hope that Ashley doesn't hurt his brother the way that Cameron hurt his sister. Desperate to be a good brother.

Now that you know his motivation, has your perspective of Alex changed?

Do you think that Clara was justified in doing what she did?

Why is it humorous that Clara and Alex were called to Mayberry's office?

What do we learn about Ashley from how she reacts to being bullied?

READ CHAPTER 18

# Leadership

## Complete Chapter 18 Plot Summary

### *The Leader Never Falls*

In classic climbing, this was the mantra that they lived by. It was primarily due to the fact that the gear wasn't as trustworthy so falling on it was more dangerous.

It is also an outdated idea towards leadership.

Do you think that a good leader should be perfect - never making the smallest mistake?

READ CHAPTER 19

## Setting

TECHNIQUE

### Complete Chapter 19 Plot Summary

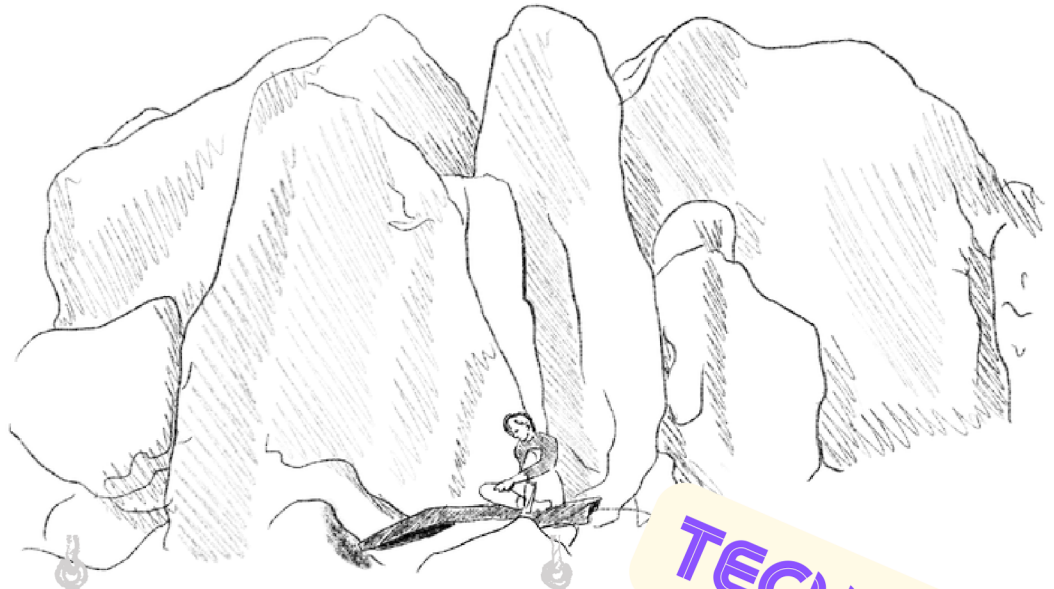
The tombstones represent a very important stage in Ashley's life. How is it different now? What does she know now that she didn't know before?

Trusting another person with your safety is a very big deal. Do you know anyone that you would trust completely with your life?

What does this say about Ashley and Kyle's friendship?



Figure 8 Device



READ CHAPTER 20

## Symbol

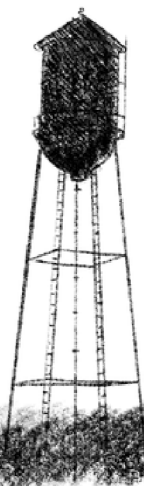
TECHNIQUE

### Complete Chapter 20 Plot Summary

The water tower represents something. What do you think it is?

How has Ashley's relationship with this place changed?  
Do you think that it is easy for her to share it with Jacob?

Is there something in your own life that recurs throughout your memory?



READ CHAPTER 21

# Falling

THEME

## Complete Chapter 21 Plot Summary



Overcoming the  
Fear of Falling -  
FOF P1

### Just Think About It...

Falling is a very literal challenge for climbers, but in life, everybody metaphorically falls all the time.



Metaphorically, what does *falling* refer to for regular people?

How did Jacob overcome his fear of falling?

Do you think Ashley would have jumped off the water tower if she had been there alone? What does this say about her changing relationship with Jacob?

READ CHAPTER 22

# Trust

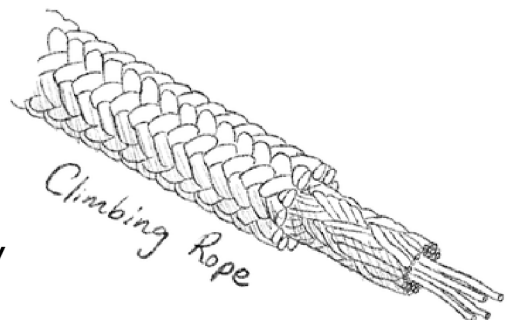
THINK

## Complete Chapter 22 Plot Summary

If you were Ashley, could you trust Alex?

Why did Alex help Ashley?

Think about the motivation that Alex had to bully Ashley earlier in the novel. What has changed?





READ CHAPTER 23

## Friendship

THEME

### Complete Chapter 23 Plot Summary

Candice and Emily were the first people to support Ashley in her adventure. How do you think she feels about them leaving?

A lot of emotion is shown in this chapter through people's actions. How is this done?

Why was Emily angry with Ashley? Do you think this is justified?



READ CHAPTERS  
24 TO 27

## Climax

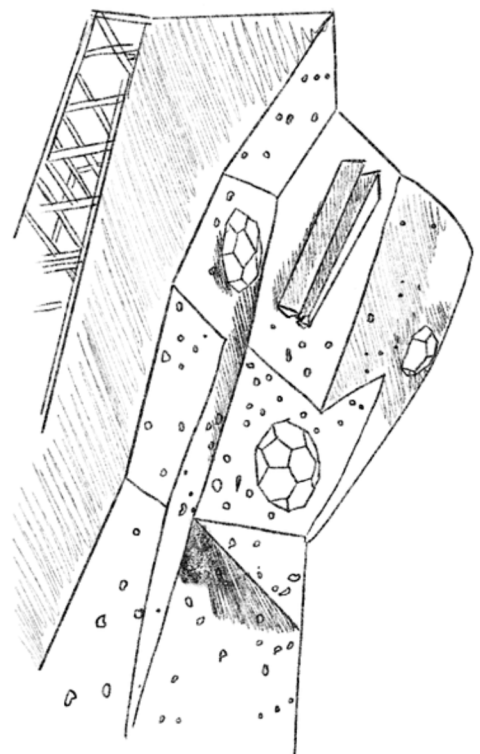
TECHNIQUE

### Complete Plot Summary

At the climax of the story, all of the elements of the novel come together. The tension should be at its peak.

What are the elements that are causing tension for Ashley during these chapters?

What do we learn about Clara in these chapters? Did you expect that to happen?



READ CHAPTERS  
28 AND 29

# Foreshadowing

TECHNIQUE

## Complete Plot Summary

**Foreshadowing -**  
A warning or indication of a future event.

How many times is Kyle's asthma inhaler mentioned throughout the story? Could this have been a *foreshadowing* of a future problem?

Do you think that Ashley should have won?

Was this story ever *really* about rock climbing



READ CHAPTER 30

# Plot Twist

TECHNIQUE

## Complete Plot Summary

Did you figure out what Clara and Ethan were doing throughout the story?

Do you think that Clara is portrayed as a good parent or a neglectful one?

Now that the story has reached its end, do you want to know more about Ashley's journey?





# AN ASHLEY DAVIES STORY CLIMB

## Related Texts - Written



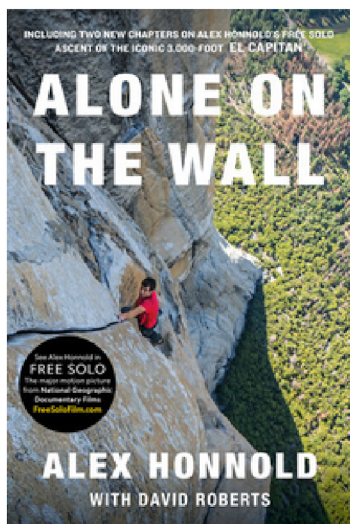
### Australian Non-Fiction

More Than It Hurts: And Other Stories of (mis)adventure  
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and

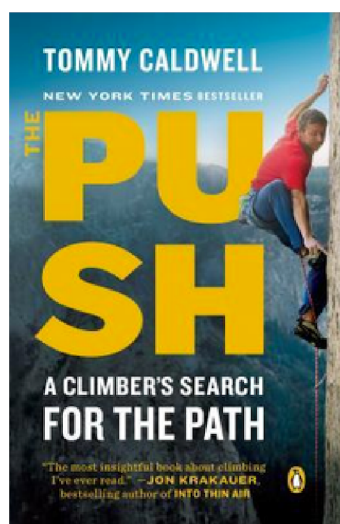
Journey To Eternity: And more stories of (mis)adventure  
on rock and in the mountains

By Wendy Bruere



### Non-Fiction

Alone on the Wall  
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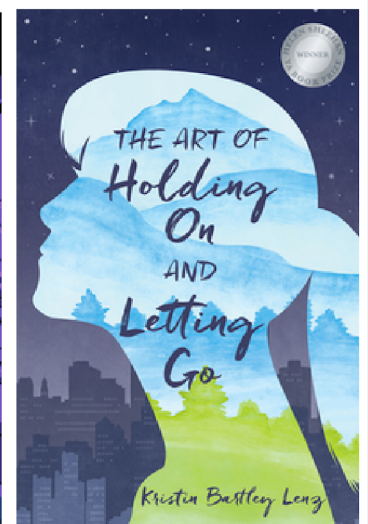
### Non-Fiction

The Push  
By Tommy Caldwell



### Fiction

Climb Harder  
By Philip Barker



### Fiction

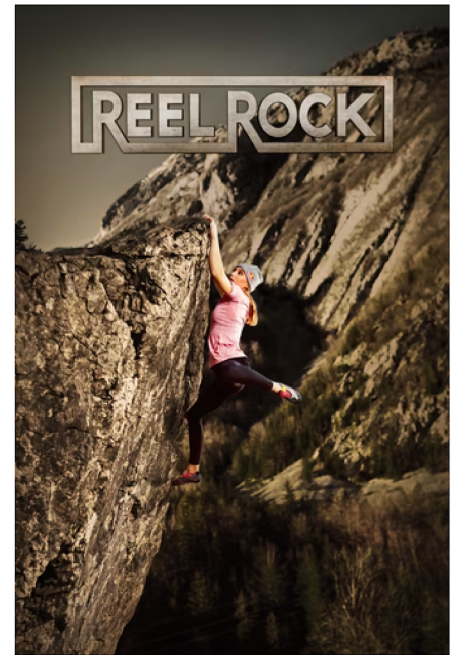
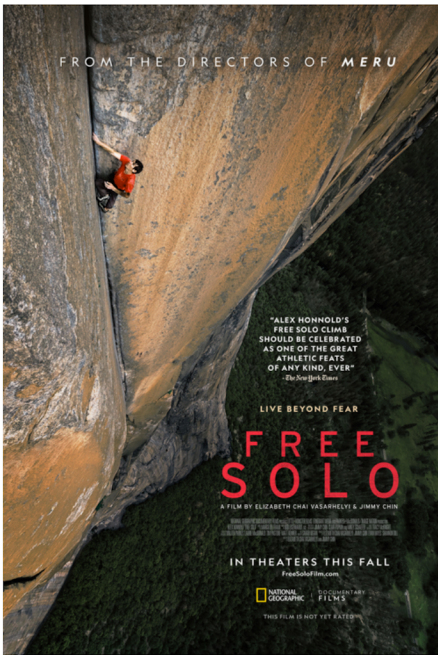
The Art of Holding On  
and Letting Go  
By Kristin Bartley Lenz



AN ASHLEY DAVIES STORY

# CLIMB

## Related Texts - Film





AN ASHLEY DAVIES STORY

# CLIMB

## Best Educational Videos



The 'Belay Masterclass' by YouTuber **Hard Is Easy** and sponsored by Mammut is the most thorough and engaging educational series for learning to climb.

*(The Alex Honnold + Tommy Caldwell Masterclass is not as thorough and is generally less engaging.)*

**Belay Masterclass** ▶ PLAY ALL

Detailed Course - Become a Belay I can Trust! From Basics to Advanced Sport Climbing Techniques.



Become a Belay I can Trust | Ep.1

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