

Unit 4:

Team Moon

Synonyms

Paragraph 1

descended: climbed down, came down
lunar: selenic, moon-related
module: vehicle, spacecraft
giant: huge, enormous
leap: jump, spring
echoed: resonated, reverberated
monumental: historic, significant
expertise: mastery, proficiency
determination: willpower, resolve
feats: achievements, accomplishments

Paragraph 2

launch: initiate, commence
seamstresses: dressmaker, tailors
crafting: making, creating
harsh: severe, hostile
withstand: to resist, endure
vacuum: hollow, void
misplaced: erroneous, faulty
spell: indicate, suggest
disaster: devastation, catastrophe
blend: combination, fusion
meticulous: careful, attentive
literally: genuinely, actually
tapestry: fabric design, woven pattern

Paragraph 3

tackling: deal with, handle
towering: enormous, gigantic
behemoth: massive, giant
flawlessly: perfectly, faultlessly
cargo: consignment, shipment
simulations: rehearsals, replications
refining: improving, upgrade
insurmountable: unconquerable, unbeatable

navigate: steer, direct
precision: accuracy, exactness

Paragraph 4

scenario: situation, case
equipment: apparatus, devices
abort: to cancel, termination
potential: possible, likely
blared: rang out, shrieked
sprang into: acted swiftly, reacted instantly
manuals: instruction books, handbooks
conferred: consulted, discussed
swift: quick, rapid
crackled: sizzled, snapped
tranquillity base: landing site, lunar base
erupted: burst out, exploded
applause: clapping, ovation

Paragraph 5

unsung: unrecognized, unnoticed
onboard: installed, built-in
prioritise: to prefer, highlight
critical: vital, essential
foresight: wisdom, insight
discarded: rejected, refused
crucial: important, decisive

Paragraph 6

symphony: harmony, coordination
conducted: managed, organized
plotted: planned, mapped
trajectory: path, course

Paragraph 7

explored: investigated, examined
awe: amazement, admiration
triumph: success, victory
ingenuity: creativity, innovation
perseverance: determination, persistence
collaboration: cooperation, coordination
relentless: persistent, unyielding
unwavering: firm, steady
dedication: devotion, commitment

Paragraph 8

splashed down: dropped into water, landed in water
triumph: success, achievement
testament: proof, evidence

Question Answers

1. What was significant about Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon?

Ans: Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the Moon, which made his first steps very important. What he said showed that the success was not only his but one big leap for all of humanity and that teamwork that made it possible.

2. Why was the job of the seamstresses at Playtex so important for the Apollo 11 mission?

Ans: Playtex seamstresses played a key role by making the spacesuits that astronauts wore in space. Their precise stitching helped protect the astronauts' lives, making their work essential to the mission's success.

3. What kind of problems were the NASA engineers trying to solve with the Saturn V rocket?

Ans: NASA engineers had to figure out how to keep the Saturn V rocket stable, guide it properly through space, and make sure it was safe enough to take the astronauts to the Moon and bring them back to Earth.

4. Why was it important for each member of the Mission Control team to have a specific role during the mission?

Ans: In Mission Control, each person had a special job to do, which ensured that no part of the mission was overlooked. This clear division of roles made it possible to make decisions, solve problems swiftly, and keep the astronauts safe.

5. How did the team at Mission Control prepare for unexpected problem during the Apollo 11 mission?

Ans: The Mission Control team prepared for unexpected challenges by practising a variety of situations, including equipment failures and emergencies. They underwent thorough training to remain composed, make quick decisions, and deal with unexpected problems effectively during the mission.

6. Who was Margaret Hamilton, and what was her role in the Apollo 11 mission?

Ans: Margaret Hamilton was the software engineer who developed the software for Apollo 11. Her code allowed the computer to concentrate on landing the spacecraft by discarding less important tasks, playing a key role in the mission's success.

7. Why does the author choose to focus on the seamstresses at Playtex (Section 2) when discussing the Apollo 11 mission? What significance do their contributions hold in the broader context of the mission?

Ans. She chooses to focus on the seamstresses because they designed and crafted the space suits that protected astronauts in the harsh environment of space. In the broader context of the mission, their work showcases the power of teamwork in achieving the historic moon landing.

8. How does the setting of Mission Control (Section 4) shape the actions and decisions of the flight controllers? In what ways does the environment contribute to the tension and resolution of key moments in the story?

Ans. Mission Control keeps them focused and ready to respond quickly. As the lunar module, "Eagle", descends towards the Moon, alarms ring with error codes. In no time, flight controllers realise the alarms are not mission critical. Their swift decision-making and calm under pressure skills made the landing a success.

9. What impact do the words like "tensions", "critical", and "overloaded" (section 4) have on the tone of the narrative? How does the author's choice of language enhance the urgency and drama of the events?

Ans. These terms create a tense, urgent, and dramatic tone in the narrative. They convey a sense of high stakes, stress and danger. Author's choice of language adds intensity, suspense and anxiety which makes the events more dramatic.

10. What would be the impact if “Team Moon” had focused solely on the astronauts’ perspective instead of highlighting the contributions of all 400,000 people involved? How would this change the narrative’s message?

Ans. It would fail to acknowledge the hard work of the 400,000 people who played a crucial role in the mission’s success. It would have ignored the spirit of teamwork that made the mission a success.

11. What is the author’s purpose in highlighting the lesser-known contributors to Apollo 11 (Section 6)? How does this focus challenge the traditional narrative of space missions that often centres solely on astronauts?

Ans. Author emphasizes the crucial contributions and effort of every person involved in the historical success of Apollo 11. The traditional narrative only glorifies the astronauts, but the author aims to celebrate the often-over-looked individuals who contribute immensely to the astronauts’ achievements.

12. What might have happened if the engineers at NASA had failed to solve a key problem with the Saturn V rocket (Section 3)? How would this have affected the outcome of the Apollo 11 mission?

Ans. If the engineers at NASA had failed to solve a key problem with the Saturn V rocket, it might have resulted in a disastrous outcome, ending the Apollo 11 mission miserably.

13. How can you summarise the main points of “Team Moon” in a way that capture the essence of the teamwork and collaboration without losing key details?

Ans. Over 400,000 individuals collaborated to make Apollo 11’s historic success possible. It was their hard work, skills, dedication, planning and a massive team effort which made Apollo 11 a phenomenal success.

14. How would you create a diagram, a flowchart, or a mind-map to visually represent the key ideas of teamwork, innovation, and perseverance from “Team Moon?” What elements would you include to ensure that it reflects the text accurately?

Ans. A diagram consisting of three columns would be drawn. First column would be of teamwork, second would be of innovation and perseverance would be mentioned in the third column. Under Teamwork, 400,000 individuals who contributed, collaboration, seamstresses, engineers and Mission Control would be added. Under Innovation, Saturn V rocket

development, software and engineering team would be included. Under Perseverance, collective efforts, hard work, training and eliminating the problems would be mentioned.