

The Maverick Mountaineer – Reading Group Questions

- Did George Finch do the right thing by turning back from the summit to save his climbing companion? Is there ever a situation where the pursuit of progress should come before all else?
- What impact do you think the negative attitudes towards George Finch's oxygen system had on the development of climbing as a pursuit and the timing of the achievements made?
- George Finch's attitude to women, marriage and children may appear to be shocking but should they be read in a modern context or against the social norms of the day?
- Peter Finch was torn by the impact of his confused childhood. Discuss the complexity of his loneliness and want for identity, and also the exposure to his grandmother's world of art.
- Was there a conspiracy against George Finch or were the decisions of Arthur Hinks and other members of the Society reasonable and in the best interests of the expeditions?
- George Finch was a rarity, physically capable of climbing Everest and with the intelligence to unravel scientific marvels. Does that make him a mountaineer who made bombs or a scientist who went on adventurous holidays?
- George Finch appears to have been a victim of the class war. Does this phenomenon still exist?