

## 6.2

# Worksheet: Further summary practice 2 – *A hidden valley*

In this passage, the central character, Nunez, who has been lost in the Andes, awakes to discover a hidden valley. Read the passage carefully and then do the exercise that follows.

He was awakened by the singing of birds in the trees far below.

He sat up and perceived he was at the foot of a vast precipice. Over against him another wall of rock reared itself against the sky. The gorge between these precipices ran east and west. It was full of the morning sunlight, which lit the mass of fallen mountain to the west.

Below him it seemed there was a precipice equally steep, but behind the snow in the gully he found a sort of chimney-cleft dripping with snow-water, down which a desperate man might venture. He found it easier than it seemed and after a rock climb of no particular difficulty came to a steep slope of trees. He turned his face up the gorge and saw it opened out above onto green meadows, among which he glimpsed a cluster of stone huts of unfamiliar fashion. At times his progress was like clambering along the face of a wall, and after a time the rising sun ceased to strike along the gorge, the voices of the singing birds died away, and the air grew cold and dark about him. But the distant valley with its houses was all the brighter for that. Among the rocks he noted an unfamiliar fern. He picked a frond or so and gnawed its stalk, and found it helpful.

About midday he came at last out of the gorge into the plain and the sunlight. He was stiff and weary; he sat down in the shadow of a rock, filled up his flask with water from a spring and drank it down. He remained for a time, resting before he went on to the houses.

They were very strange to his eyes, and indeed the whole appearance of that valley became, as he regarded it, stranger and more unfamiliar. The greater part of its surface was lush green meadow, starred with many beautiful flowers. It was irrigated with extraordinary care, and showed signs of systematic farming. High up and ringing the valley about was a wall, and what appeared to be a water channel, from which the little trickles of water that fed the meadow plants came. On the higher slopes flocks of llamas cropped the scanty grass. The irrigation streams ran together into a main channel down the centre of the valley, and this was enclosed on either side by a wall chest high. A number of paths paved with black and white stones, and each with a curious little kerb at the side, ran here and there in an orderly manner.

The houses of the central village were quite unlike those of the mountain villages he knew. They stood in a continuous row on either side of a central street of astonishing cleanness. Here and there their walls were pierced by a door, but not a solitary window broke their even frontage. They were parti-coloured with extraordinary irregularity, smeared with a sort of plaster that was sometimes grey, sometimes drab, sometimes slate-coloured or dark brown. It was the sight of this wild plastering that made the explorer say to himself, 'The good man who did that must have been as blind as a bat.'

*H.G. Wells*

Re-read the passage and then write two paragraphs.

In the first paragraph, write a summary of everything Nunez did and in the second, write a summary of everything that he saw.

Write about 80 words for the first paragraph and about 100–120 words for the second. Use your own words as far as possible.



