

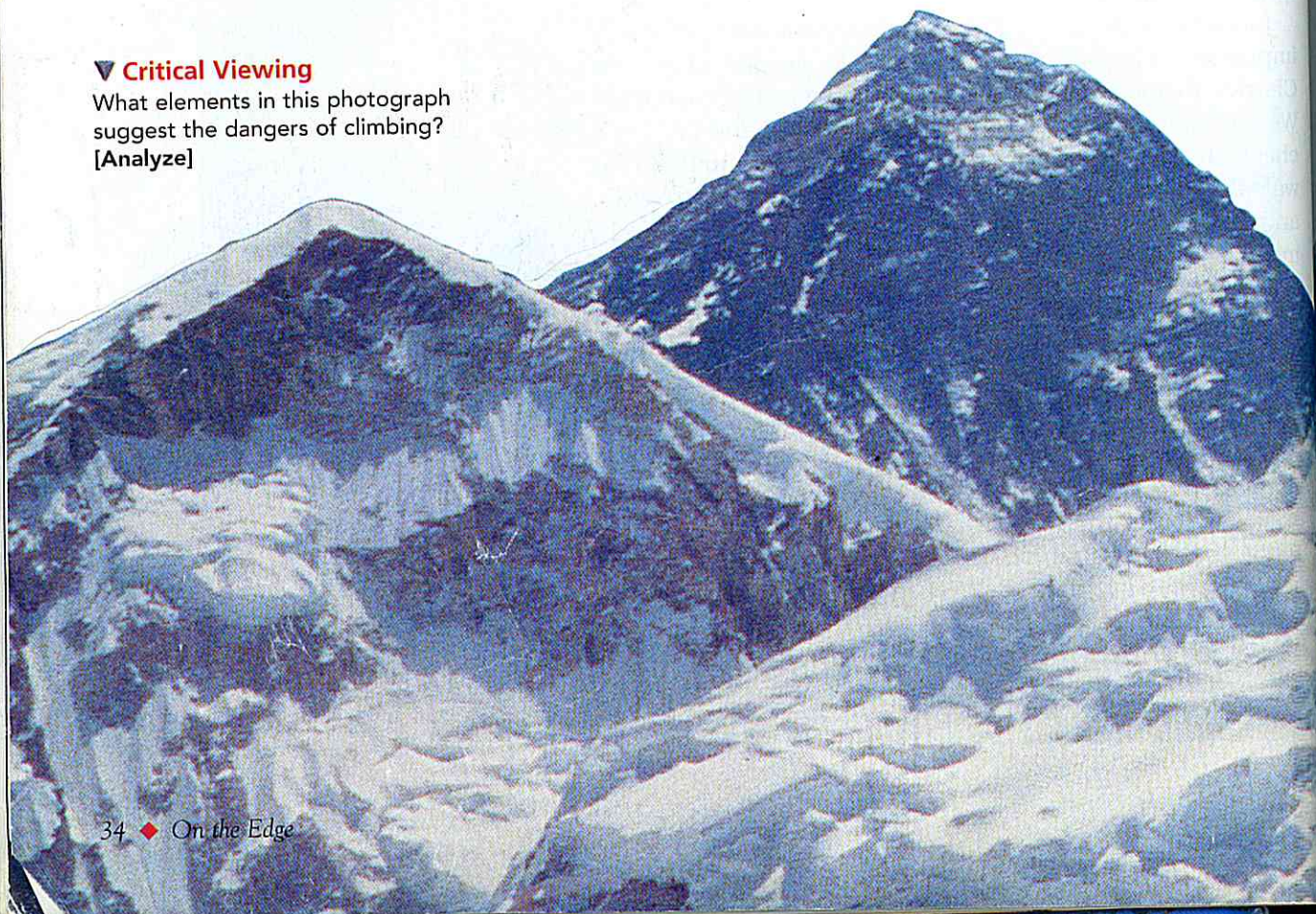
oxygen equipment. The pressure seemed satisfactory but then I noticed that his face mask was choked up with ice. I squeezed the mask to dislodge the ice and was relieved to see Tenzing breathing freely again. I checked my own equipment—it, too, held some ice, but not enough to cause me concern, and I quickly cleared it away. I moved on again, cutting line after line of steps.

Ahead of me loomed the great rock step which we had observed from far below and which we knew might prove to be a major problem. I gazed up at the forty feet of rock with some concern. To climb it directly at nearly 29,000 feet would indeed be a considerable challenge. I looked to the right, there seemed a chance there. Clinging to the rock was a great ice cornice hanging over the mighty Kangshung Face. Under the effects of gravity, the ice had broken away from the rock and a narrow crack ran upward. Nervously, I wondered if the cornice might collapse under my pressure. There was only one way to find out!

Although it would be relatively useless, I got Tenzing to establish a belay; then I eased my way into the crack, facing the rock. I jammed my crampons into the ice behind me and then wriggled my way upward using every little handhold I could find. Puffing for breath, I made steady height—the ice was holding—and forty feet up I pulled myself out of the crack onto the top of the rock face. I had made it! For the first time on the whole expedition, I had a feeling of confidence that we were going to get to the top. I waved to Tenzing and brought in the rope as he, too, made his way laboriously up the crack and dragged himself out beside me, panting for breath.

▼ Critical Viewing

What elements in this photograph suggest the dangers of climbing?
[Analyze]



Literary Analysis

Author's Perspective

How does Hillary feel about the belay that Norgay sets up?

laboriously (lə bōr' ē əs lē) adv. with difficulty

We didn't waste any rather anxiously for a tired now and moving barren plateau of Tibet a rounded snowy tower as Tenzing brought line of steps upward, exposed area of snow Tenzing quickly joined immense satisfaction

It was 11:30 a.m. ion, I stretched out for Tenzing who then and I hugged him realized that Tenzing was

But time was short Immediately my tried in the brisk with tion of my down jacket and photographed his ice axe upraised ping in the breeze flag, the Indian flag and the United didn't have a cable the truth, the then enter my mind to organize a picture