

## **A Novel Feat**

**By Lydia Clotfelter, 7<sup>th</sup> grader**

Can you imagine climbing Mt. Everest? In Mrs. Mowery's English literature class, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders started off the year reading the memoir *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. He was present at the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster. As he was descending Mt. Everest, a storm was brewing. Krakauer depicted the obstacles that resulted from the storm.

Students have the chance to enjoy learning. They interact with one another and experience different points of view from their classmates. Mrs. Mowery has prepared many fun activities to help the 7<sup>th</sup> graders understand the novel. For example, the class has discussed their different views of the novel in a format called inner-outer circle.

Also, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders have formed expedition teams, which are groups of four or more students, who are theoretically climbing Mt. Everest together. Whoever reaches the top first, wins the race. The expedition teams will earn points (linear feet) to climb the mountain. For example, when everyone brings in their homework on time or when a group member answers a question correctly, students are awarded feet. In only one week, the Everclimbers expedition team has already made it to 9200 feet. They still have close to 20,000 feet yet to climb. As you can see, 7<sup>th</sup> graders have a lot of work cut out for them. They will have to try hard, but they can do it.