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# **Class 9 English (Beehive) Notes**

## **My Childhood**

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

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## Lesson 6 MY CHILDHOOD

APJ Abdul Kalam

### Value Points

- Kalam — born in a middle class big Tamil Muslim family in Island town of Rameshwaram.
- He had a materially and emotionally secure childhood. Parents Jainulabdeen and Ashiamma very generous, kind, believed in the life of necessities.
- Inherited honesty and self discipline from father and faith in goodness and deep kindness from mother.
- Earned little money during I Ind World War by collecting and selling tamarind seeds to the provision shop as a child. Later earned his first wages as a help for catching newspaper for his cousin Samsuddin.
- He had three close childhood friends — Ramanadh Shastri, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan who used to sit together with Kalam in the front row.
- When he was in class V a new teacher saw them sitting together and asked Kalam to move to back bench because of his religion
- Ramanadh's father (Laxman Sastry) asked the teacher not to spread the poison of inequality and intolerance ultimately the teacher had to apologize for his act.
- Kalam's science teacher— Shiv SubramaniaAyyar once took him home for dinner, but his orthodox, conservative wife refused to serve him food as he was a muslim. Mr. Subramania served him food and invited him next week also.
- Mr. Subramania motivated him for higher studies.
- After completing elementary education Kalam asked his father for permission to leave Rameshwaram for higher studies. He agreed to send him to study at the district headquarters in Ramanathapuram. To convince his mother, his father gave the example of a seagull who flies across the sun alone and without a nest.

### ACTIVITY

Write a few examples of communal harmony that you watch in the society. It can be a religious, social or sports activity.

Ex. Kite Flying

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



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### COMPREHENSION PASSAGE

1. I was one of the many children — a short boy with rather undistinguished looks, born to tall and handsome parents.

#### Questions

- Who is the narrator here?
  - How did the narrator look?
  - How was he different from his parents?
  - Find a word from the above lines that means the same as "ordinary".
2. Samsuddin helped me earn my first wages. Half a century later, I can still feel the surge of pride in earning my own money for the first time.

#### Questions

- Who helped the narrator?
  - How did the narrator earn his first wages?
  - How did that narrator feel?
  - Find a word from the passage that means the same as 'rise'.
3. One day he invited me his home for a meal. His wife was horrified at the idea of a Muslim boy being invited to dine in her ritually pure kitchen.

#### Questions

- Who invited the narrator?
- Why was the woman horrified?
- What do we learn about the woman in above passage?
- Find a word from above lines that means the same as 'shocked'.

#### Short Questions

- Q 1 What qualities did he acquire from his parents?
- Q 2 How did Abdul Kalam earn his first wages?
- Q 3 What happened when Abdul Kalam and his friend narrated the action of the new teacher to their parents?
- Q 4 Who was Sivasubramania Iyer? What did he want Abul to do?
- Q 5 How did Sivasubramania Iyer's wife behave the first and the second time?

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- Q6 How does Abul Kalam's father react when he sought permission to leave Rameshwaram to study further?
- Q7 How did Kalam's family contribute to the annual Shri Sita Ram Kalyanam Ceremony.?

**Long Questions**

1. Compare and contrast the role of two different teachers in Abdul Kalam's life in influencing him in terms of social and communal intolerance.

**Or**

The two teachers in Kalam's life had different attitude towards social and communal tolerance. Which attitude do you think is right and why?

2. Discuss the role of Abdul Kalam's parents in his life.
3. Explain Kalam's experience at the science teacher's house.

