

To Inspire, be inspired

The teacher can start the class discussion as below:

Everyone gets a dream, and at a young age, all of us dream of becoming someone in the future, i.e., a doctor, engineer, lawyer, athlete, etc., isn't it? Dreaming is important, but having to work for it is more important.

This is the real story of a young boy who wanted to achieve his dreams by overcoming all obstacles. He became a renowned scientist, professor, and aerospace engineer. He is called the "Missile Man of India. Because of his humility and strong connection with people, he was known as People's President.

Can you all guess who he is?

His name is Dr. Abdul Kalam. Below is his life summary.

Abdul Kalam was born in Rameswaram, India, into a middle-class family. Though the family had financial challenges, they encouraged him to study diligently and excel academically. Kalam sold newspapers and supported his family financially, but he never gave up education.

In high school, he excelled academically and developed a passion for science. Abdul Kalam's hard work paved the way for him to get a scholarship when he was pursuing his engineering degree. He dreamed of becoming a pilot, but he was not able to clear the interview. He chose not to give up and instead accepted them as opportunities to find a better path.

Then Dr. Abdul Kalam started his career at the Aeronautical Development Establishment and

was involved in the design of a hovercraft. Later, he moved to the Indian Space Research Organisation, contributed to many remarkable projects, and was a pillar in the development of the Agni and Prithvi missiles. He was known as the "Missile Man of India" for his contribution. He was the recipient of many prestigious awards.

He had a strong belief in both the enormous potential of youth and the transformational power of education. He tirelessly interacted with students, thereby encouraging and motivating them to actively engage in community development projects and to use the knowledge and skills for the benefit of others.

In addition to his academic prowess, Dr. Kalam is a multifaceted individual who enjoys writing poetry in Tamil, playing the veena, learning Sanskrit, and listening to Carnatic music.

A few of his well-known sayings are:

"Dream is not something that you see while sleeping; it is something that does not let you sleep."

"If four things are followed: having a great aim, acquiring knowledge, hard work, and perseverance, then anything can be achieved."

Dr. Kalam's strong will, steadfast determination, and immense dedication are evident in his journey as a young boy with dreams and in becoming President of India. He is a man of simple living and high thinking. His life is an inspiration to many that shows, anyone can achieve their goals through dedication and hard work.

Discussion Questions:

1) You are working hard to get admission in the best University in India and become a space scientist. But you failed to get admission. What would be your reaction?

2) You wish to make a career in the artistic field, but your parents are keen that you become an engineer / doctor. What would you do?

Points to reflect/ponder

Reading an autobiography or biography: -

- Motivates us to pursue our goals
- Encourages self- discovery
- Helps us acquire insight on how to deal in various situations and life's challenges.