

CLASS – 9TH

Beehive- Chapter – 6th My Childhood

By- APJ Abdul Kalam

Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each:

Q.1. Where was Abdul Kalam's house?

Ans. Abdul Kalam's house was in the Mosque Street in Rameswaram town of Tamil Nadu.

Q.2. What do you think Dinamani is the name of? Give a reason for your answer.

Ans. Dinamani is the name of a daily newspaper. The author traced the stories of the Second World War in the headlines of the newspaper.

Q.3. Who were Abdul Kalam's school friends? What did they later become?

Ans. Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan were Abdul Kalam's school friends. Ramanadha took over the priesthood of the Rameswaram temple from his father. Aravindan went into the business of arranging transport for the visiting pilgrims and Sivaprakasan became a catering contractor for the Southern Railways.

Q.4. How did Abdul Kalam earn his first wages?

Ans. Abdul Kalam earned his first wages by helping his cousin Samsuddin in distributing newspapers.

Q.5. Had he earned any money before that? In what way?

Ans. He had earned money by selling tamarind seeds in the market during the starting days of the Second World War.

II. Answer each of these question in short paragraph (about 30 words)

Q.1. How does the author describe his father, his mother and himself?

Ans. The author says that his father Jainulabdeen was a man of great innate wisdom and a true generosity of spirit. His mother Ashiamma was an ideal helpmate to his father. He himself was a short boy with rather simple looks.

Q.2. What characteristics does he say he inherited from his parents?

Ans. Abdul Kalam inherited honesty and self-discipline from his father and a sense of kindness and faith in goodness from his mother.

III. Discuss these questions in class with your teacher and then write down your answer in two or three paragraphs each.

1. “ On the whole, the small society of Rameswaram was very rigid in terms of the segregation of different social groups,” says the author.

(i). Which social groups does he mention? Were these groups easily identifiable ?

Ans. The author mentions different social groups. These groups are of Hindus, Muslims, Brahmins and Non-Brahmins. These groups were easily identifiable. While Muslims used to wear caps, the Hindus wore a sacred thread. Thus, the dresses and hair styles marked them which social groups they belonged to.

(ii). Were they aware only of their differences or did they also naturally share friendships and experiences?

Ans. They were aware of their differences but they also naturally shared their friendships and experiences. Abdul Kalam's family was a Muslim family. But his mother and grandmother told the events from the Ramayana and from the life of the Prophet equally. The author's family use to arrange boats with special platform for carrying the idols of the Hindu Lord from the temple to the marriage site situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha.

(iii). The author speaks both of people who were very aware of differences among them and those who tried to bridge these differences. Can you identify such people in the text?

Ans. The people who were very aware of the differences between Hindus and Muslims were: the new teacher at the Rameswaram Elementary School and the wife of Sivasubramania Iyer, Abdul Kalam's science teacher.

The people who tried to bridge the gap were: Ramanadha Sastry's father Lakshmana Sastry and Abdul Kalam's science teacher Sivasubramania Iyer.

(iv). Narrate two incidents that show how differences can be created, and also how they can be resolved. How can people change their attitudes?

Ans. The first incident took place when Abdul Kalam was in fifth standard. He used to sit in the front row with Ramanadha Sastry. A new teacher came to their school. He could not stomach a Muslim boy sitting with a Hindu boy. He asked Abdul Kalam to sit in the back row.

The second incident took place when the wife of Abdul Kalam's science teacher refused to serve food to a Muslim boy in her kitchen.

The new teacher and the wife of the science teacher change their attitude when they were dealt severely by the father of Ramanadha Sastry and the science teacher respectively. We can change this system if together we decide to change it and make sincere efforts too.

2. (i). Why did Abdul Kalam want to leave Rameswaram?

Ans. Abdul Kalam wanted to leave Rameswaram to study at the district headquarters in Ramanathapuram.

(ii). What did his father say to this?

Ans. His father told him that he knew he had to go away to grow. He gave the example of a seagull and said that a seagull flies across the sun alone and without a nest. So he his permission gladly.

(iv). What do you think his father's words mean? Why do you think he spoke those words?

Ans. His words mean that the parents must not put checks of love and affection on their wards if they want to go out of station to improve themselves. They are not the children of theirs only but the country has full light on them. He spoke those words because Abdul Kalam's mother was hesitant at his idea of leaving Rameswaram.

By- Amar Singh Rajawat