

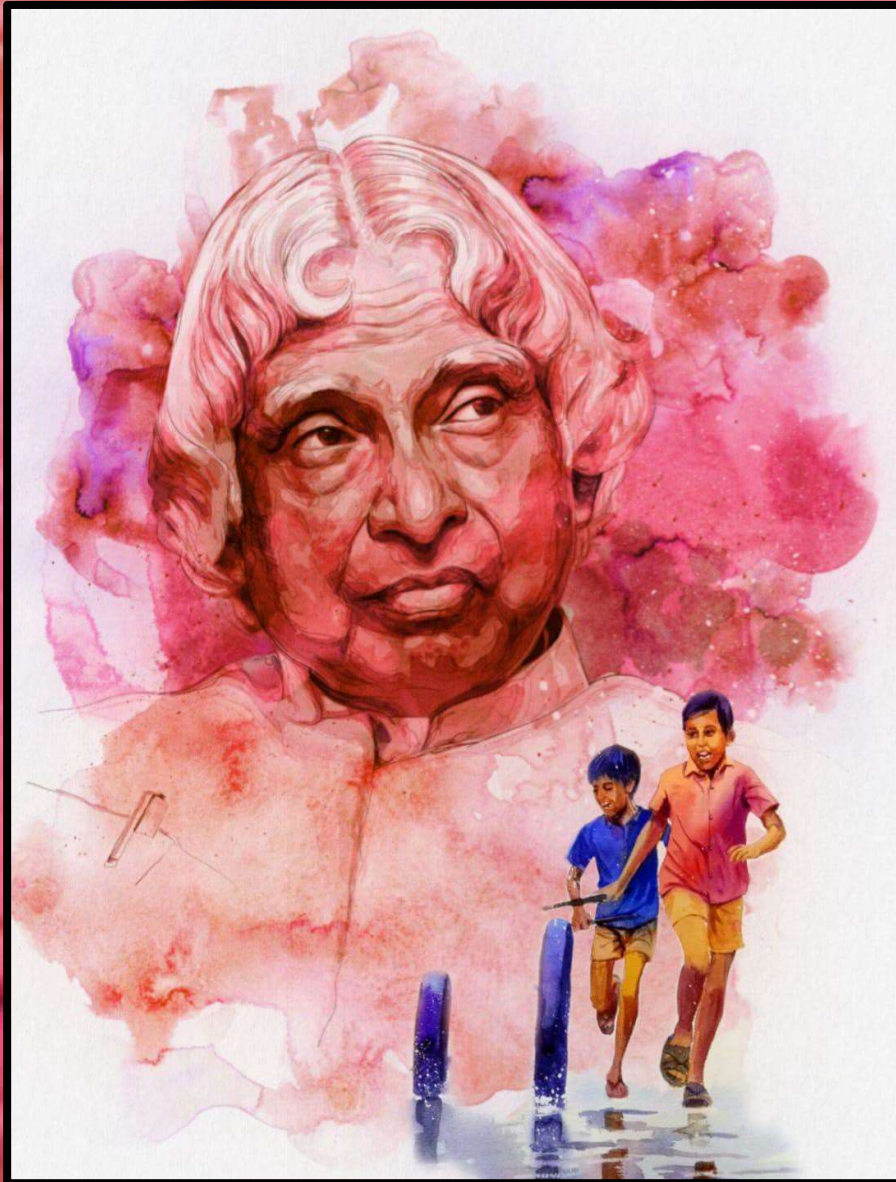
MY CHILDHOOD

-BY A.P.J.ABDUL KALAM



0959CH06

CLASS-IX, ENGLISH



DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL,THANE
Affiliated with CBSE

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Readers,

"Learning gives creativity, Creativity leads to thinking, Thinking leads to knowledge, Knowledge makes you great."

— Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

We, at D.A.V Public School, Thane, sincerely hope that the Graphic novel 'My Childhood' , will be greatly beneficial to both the educators and students alike. The theme of the novel is based on the lesson '**My Childhood**' , of **Beehive** text book for standard - IX published by the NCERT, which is a part of the autobiographical account of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. This is a creative presentation designed and curated by , Ms. Rosalina Senapati ,Ms. Sarita Sangwan ,Ms. Sunita Chandran ,Ms. Jini Chatterjee and Ms. Mayuri Mehrotra. Graphic novels are a unique and innovative initiative to develop and reinforce skills like reading , vocabulary building, sentence formation and art integration. It is a very creative way of illustrating a story through pictures and conveying its message involved in an interesting way. The graphics help in captivating the attention of the students in a fascinating way and help them develop their imagination. This methodology transports the children from the world of plain texts to a colourful world of creativity and innovation. I ,whole heartedly congratulate the team, for transforming their persistent efforts into a worthwhile outcome.

Enjoy Reading !

Simmi Juneja

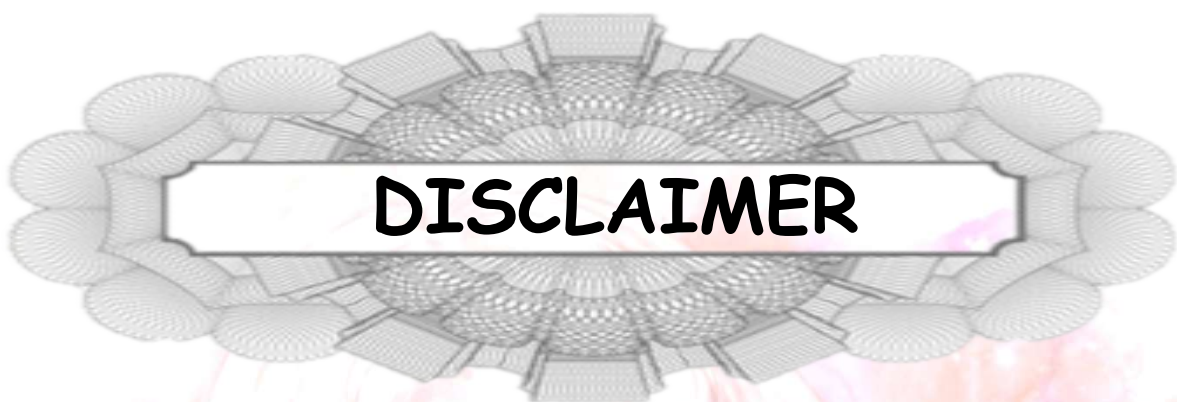
Principal

DAV Public School, Thane

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This graphic novel brings the untiring efforts of the team D.A.V. Public School , Thane. We express our special gratitude to our **Principal Simmi Juneja** for her continuous support and motivation. We are highly indebted to **Mr. Sandeep Sethi** Director Education M.S.M.S. II, Museum Trust , who stimulated us for this novel idea.

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DISCLAIMER

This novel is published as a supportive reading material to enable the students to have a better understanding of the lesson. The novel is based on the childhood experiences of Dr.A.P.J Abdul Kalam. The characters and the incidents mentioned in the novel reflects the author's recollections of experiences over the time . Artwork is a combined effort of the students and the teachers. The graphics have been handled by the Department of English, of the school. Some events have been compressed, and some dialogues have been added in order to make it more presentable and effective.



PREFACE.

'My Childhood' is an excerpt from the autobiographical account of the former President of India A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, fondly called as 'The Missile Man of India'. This nostalgic piece of writing has been taken from his autobiography 'The Wings of Fire', in which he shares the journey of his life.. As the experiences of childhood play an important role in shaping up the personality of a person, the author explains the role of those incidents, in raising an ordinary boy like him , with an undistinguished personality to the highest rank of the country.

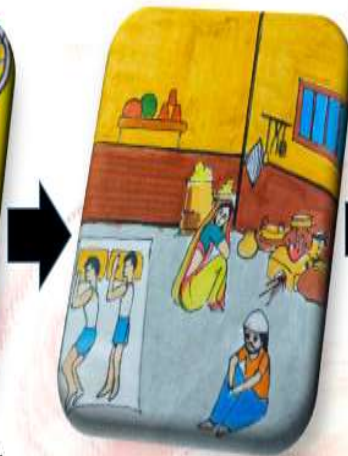
The experiences are recorded in a chronological order. There is mention of Second World War and its influence in his native place 'Rameshwaram'. He describes the character of his parents and their role in shaping up his behaviour. He mentions his three childhood friends and the pure and innocent bond with them and the role of different teachers in formulating his thoughts. One made him realize that there is a segregation in the society based on religion and the other taught him to confront and overcome the obstacles and encouraged him to develop himself.

For the children, who are going through the transition phase in their teenage years, the childhood story of Abdul Kalam gives motivation. They learn to stand in the face of unconducive circumstances and win the game. They would be able to relate that if an ordinary boy like him, with very less means could reach the top, why can't they achieve their dreams.

The lesson also guides the students to dream big ,take appropriate action at the right time, live in harmony ,accept the changes and aspire for peace.



APJ Abdul Kalam
reminisces his
childhood days.



His parents were an
epitome of love,
kindness and humanity.



The Second World War
began in 1939.



The train halt was
suspended at
Rameshwaram Station.

STORY BOARD



Abdul distributed
newspapers during
emergency and earned
his wages.



Abdul went to
Ramanathapuram for
his higher studies.



The World War -2 ended
in 1945 and India's
freedom was imminent.



He was supported and
motivated by his Science
teacher.



He faced discrimination
in his school, based on
his religion.

Know the characters.....



Abdul is a hardworking and enterprising child with ordinary looks. He is also a sensitive kid who absorbs a lot from his experiences. Early in his life, he realizes that caste-based segregation is a poison that must not be allowed to flourish.



Abdul's father, Janulabdin instills in him the qualities of honesty and self-discipline. He makes sure that all basic necessities are provided to his children. He has a secular approach.



Abdul's mother Ashiamma, is a very simple lady and does not have any place for inessential comforts. She instills in him the values of faith in goodness and genuine kindness. She is a generous lady who feeds a lot of people everyday.



Pakshi Lakshmana Sastry is the father of Kalam's friend Ramanadha Sastry, and the high priest of the Rameswaram temple. He is against social inequality and communal intolerance.



Sivasubramania Iyer's wife belongs to an orthodox and conservative Brahmin family. She has a unique notion about sanctity of her kitchen which she fears will be defiled if she serves meal to someone who belongs to a different faith.

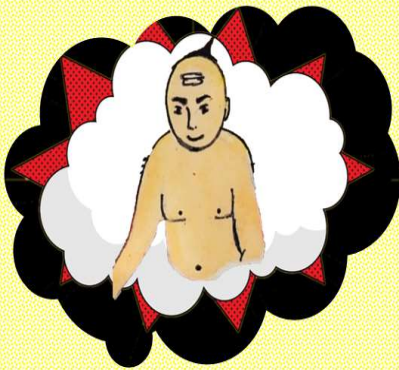


The new teacher is very conservative person. He is seen isolating Kalam from his friends. He can't see a Muslim boy sitting with a Brahmin boy so he asks Abdul to sit in the last row of the class.

Know the characters.....



Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan, and Sivaprakasan are the friends of Kalam. They are very close to each other. All these boys are from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families. Ramanadha Sastry is the son of Pakshi Lakshmana Sastry, the high priest of the Rameswaram temple.



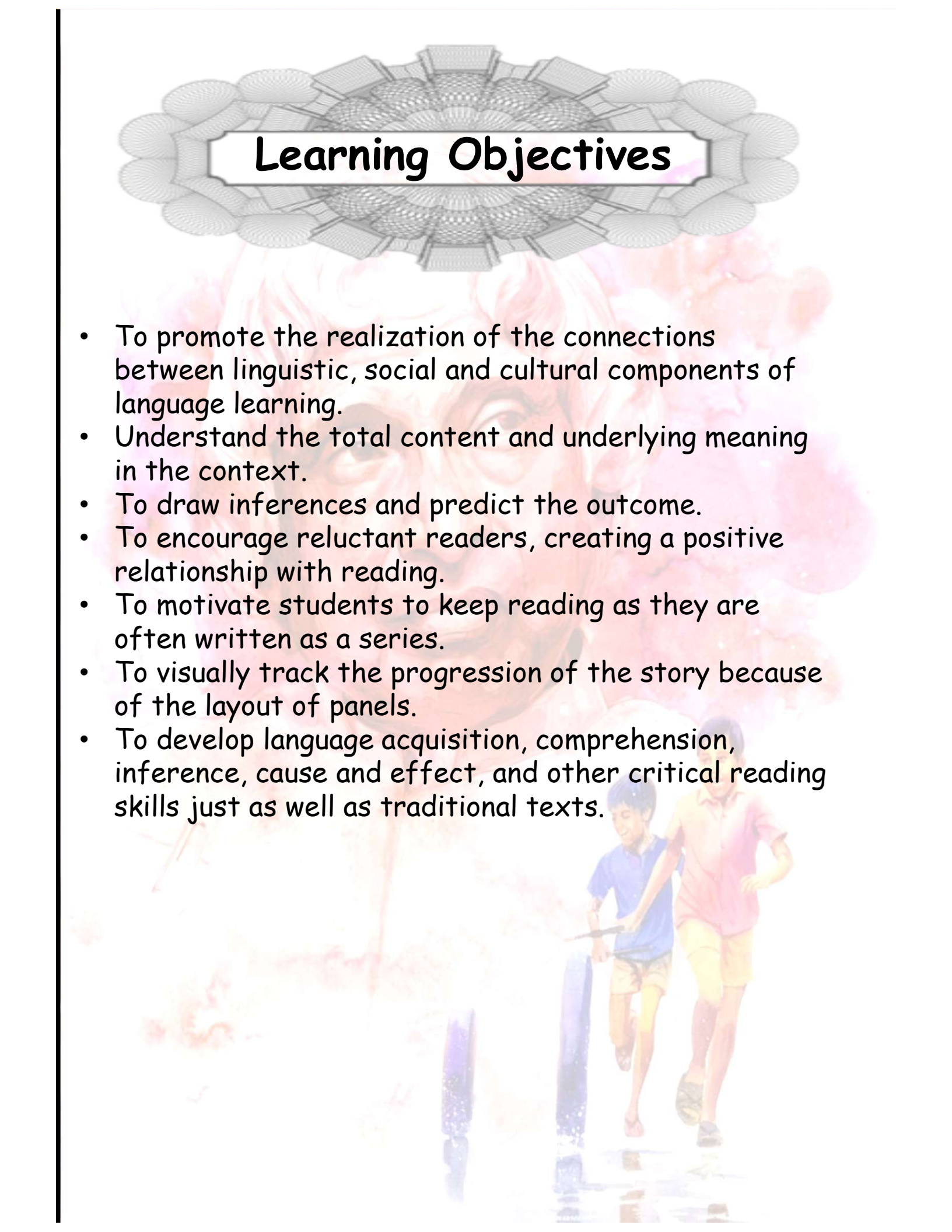
Sivasubramania Iyer was Kalam's science teacher. Though he was a brahmin, he was something of a rebel. A man of liberal views, he wanted to change the society •



Archana is a student of standard-IX. She considers herself unfortunate and blames her parents for every little thing. She later, is motivated by reading the autobiography of Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam.



Mrs. Iyer is the mother of Archana and she keeps on motivating her to face the adversities in life. She gifts 'Wings of Fire' to her daughter in order to motivate her.

The background of the slide features a large, faint illustration of a human eye in the upper half, looking towards the left. In the lower half, there is a faint illustration of two children, a boy and a girl, running towards the right. The boy is wearing a blue shirt and yellow shorts, and the girl is wearing a pink shirt and yellow shorts. They are running on a path that leads towards the right. The overall background is a light, textured grey with a subtle pattern of small, repeating geometric shapes.

Learning Objectives

- To promote the realization of the connections between linguistic, social and cultural components of language learning.
- Understand the total content and underlying meaning in the context.
- To draw inferences and predict the outcome.
- To encourage reluctant readers, creating a positive relationship with reading.
- To motivate students to keep reading as they are often written as a series.
- To visually track the progression of the story because of the layout of panels.
- To develop language acquisition, comprehension, inference, cause and effect, and other critical reading skills just as well as traditional texts.

Meet Archana who is a student of standard -IX. Now a days she looks gloomy and blames her parents for not fulfilling her wishes and dreams.

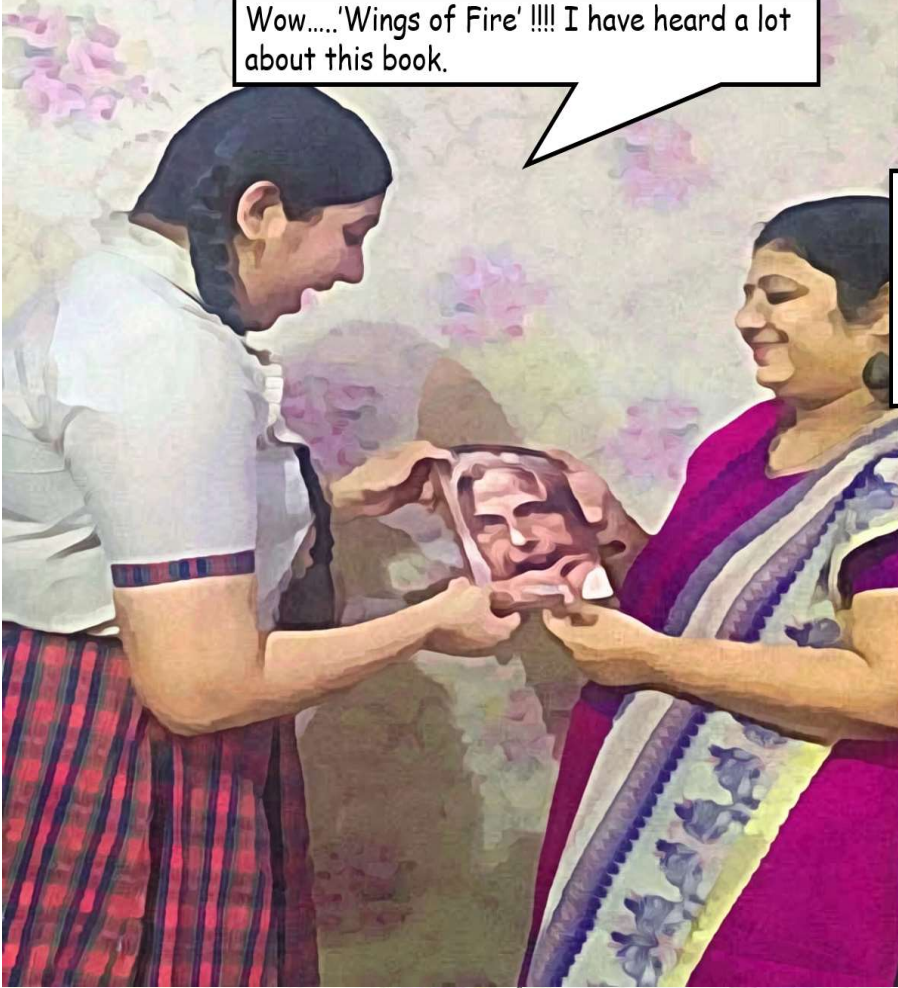


Mrs.Iyer always tries to console Archana and make her understand the problems that she faces while raising two children.



Mrs. Iyer tries to make her understand about the situation but she is not interested at all.





Wow.....'Wings of Fire' !!!! I have heard a lot about this book.

This is 'Wings of Fire' by A.P.J Abdul Kalam. One of the most inspirational books that I have ever come across. Take this and read it thoroughly. I am sure, you will love it and learn a lot from it.

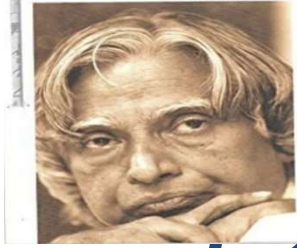


Archana, there is a chapter from this book in your Beehive textbook as well.

Yes mother..... The name of the chapter is 'My Childhood' and I could easily trace out those details here.



APJ ABDUL KALAM
WINGS OF FIRE
An Autobiography
with Arun Tiwari



*Welcome Dear Children!
Childhood is the most
beautiful phase of a
person's life. I too had a
beautiful childhood, that I
have shared with you all,
in the NCERT Textbook
of class-9th 'Beehive'.*

*Lets explore my
childhood experiences.*



I was born into a middle class Tamil family in the island town of Rameswaram in the erstwhile Madras state..

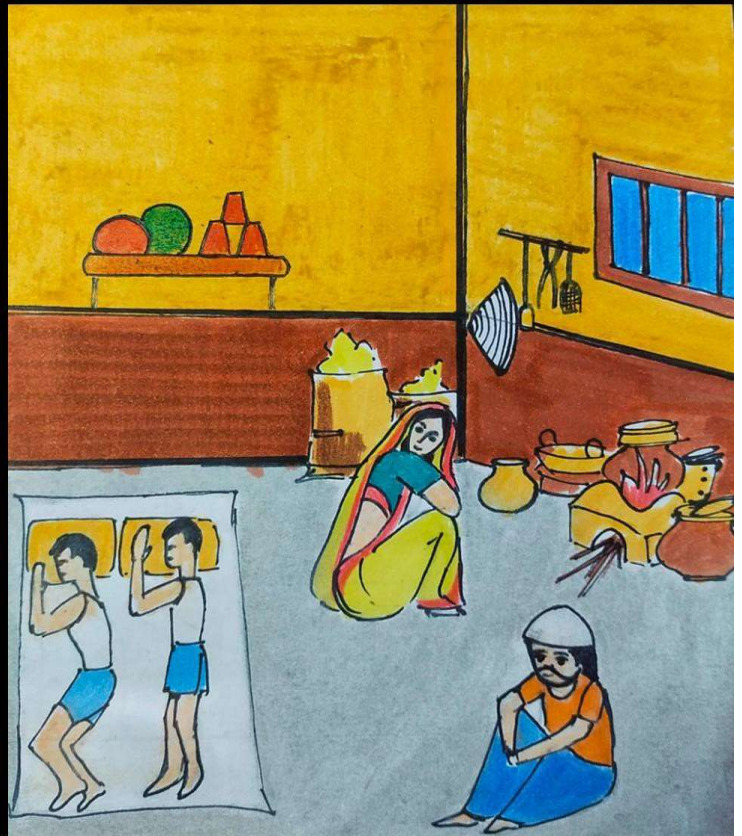


We lived in our ancestral house, a fairly large pucca house, on the Mosque Street in Rameswaram.



My mother Ashiamma was an ideal helpmate to my father and was an epitome of kindness and fed a number of people every day.

My austere father used to avoid all inessential luxuries and comforts. We all were provided with all the basic necessities, in terms of food, clothes, medicines and education. Materially and emotionally we had a secured childhood.



The Second World War broke out in 1939, when I was eight years old.



There was a sudden surge in the demand for tamarind seeds.



I used to collect them and sell them in the provision store on the Mosque Street.



WORKSHEET - 1

I. Match the words and phrases in column A with their meanings in column B.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
1. could not stomach	a. Handsome
2. Erstwhile	b. Natural
3. Erupt	c. not able to tolerate
4. Innate	d. break out
5. princely	e. former

II. Fill in the missing letters to complete the words.

a. A _ s _ _ re

b. Or _ _ _ d x

c. _ _ tol _ a _ _ e

My brother-in-law Jallaluddin would tell me stories about the war.



I , later used to attempt to trace the news of World War -2, in DINAMANI.



Emergency was declared. The train halt at Rameswaram station was suspended.



The train suspension at Rameswaram, forced my cousin Samsuddin, who distributed newspaper at Rameswaram to look for a helping hand to catch the bundles. He asked for my help and I readily agreed.



Samsuddin used to throw the newspaper bundles from the moving train.....



I used to distribute newspapers in the Rameswaram city....

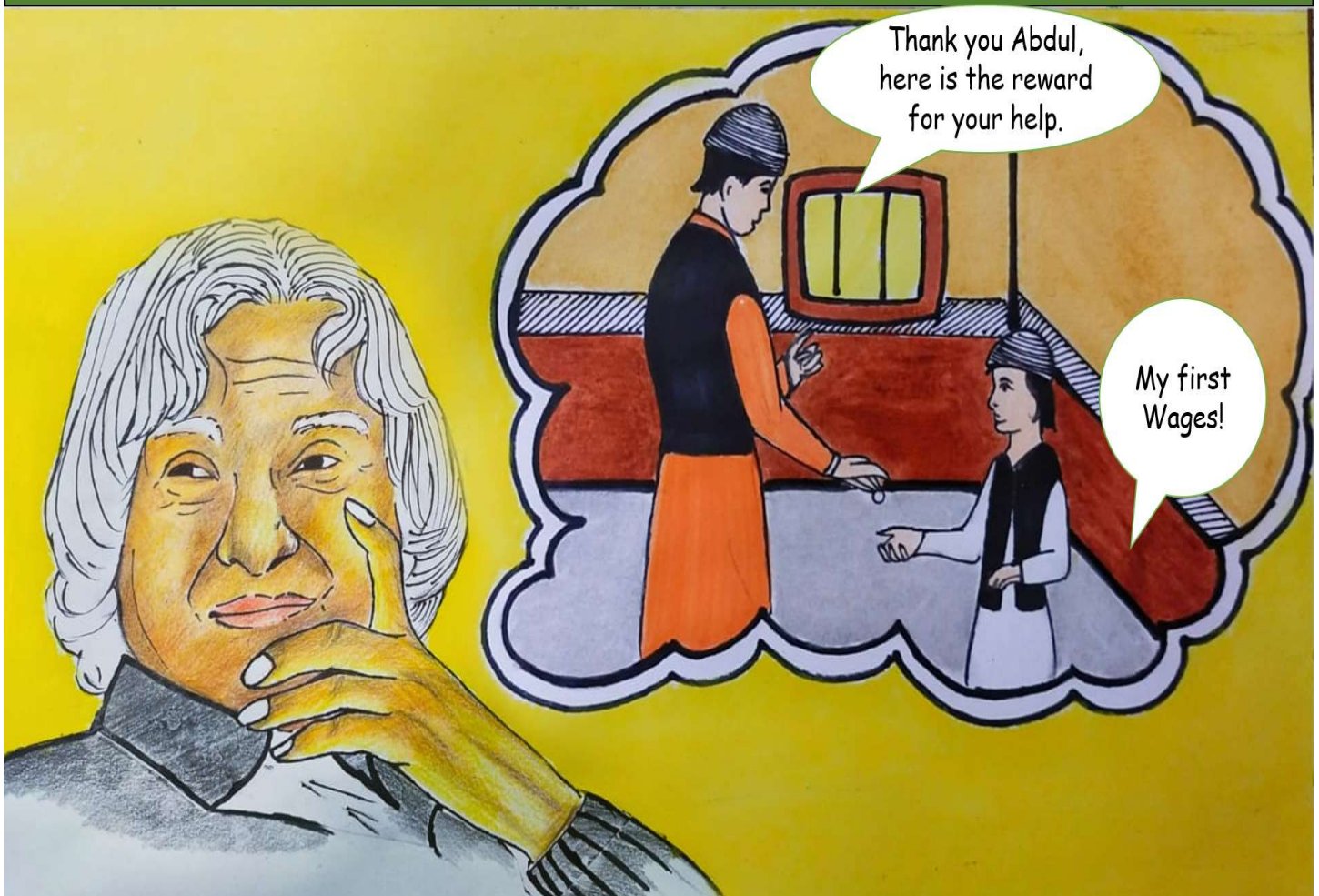


WORKSHEET-2

I. Change the following words in part of speech mentioned in the bracket:

Horror(adjective)	
Apologize (noun)	
Summoned (noun)	
Ceremony(adjective)	
Friend (abstract noun)	

Half a century later, I can still feel the surge of pride of earning my first wages.



Every child is born with some inherited characteristics, and absorb some from his/her socio-economic and emotional environment, and trained in certain ways by figures of authority. I inherited honesty and self-discipline from my father and faith in goodness and deep kindness from my mother.



I had three close friends in my childhood-Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakashan. All my friends belonged to Orthodox Hindu Brahmin families. As children none of us had religious differences.



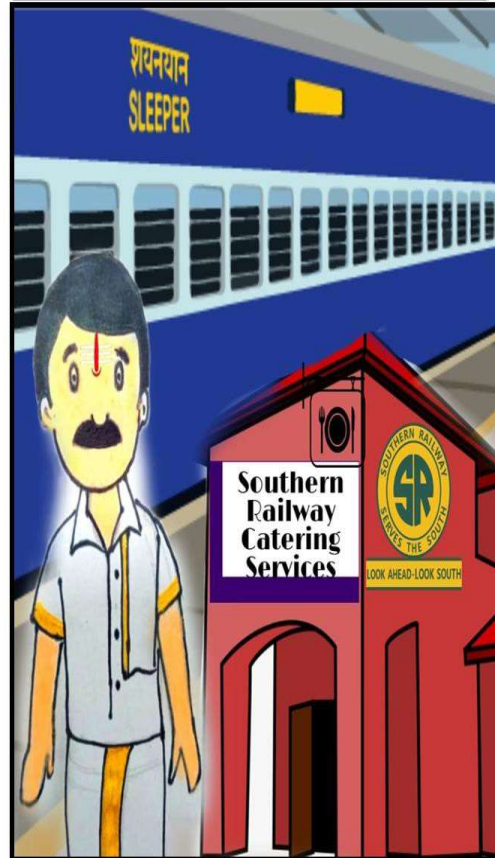
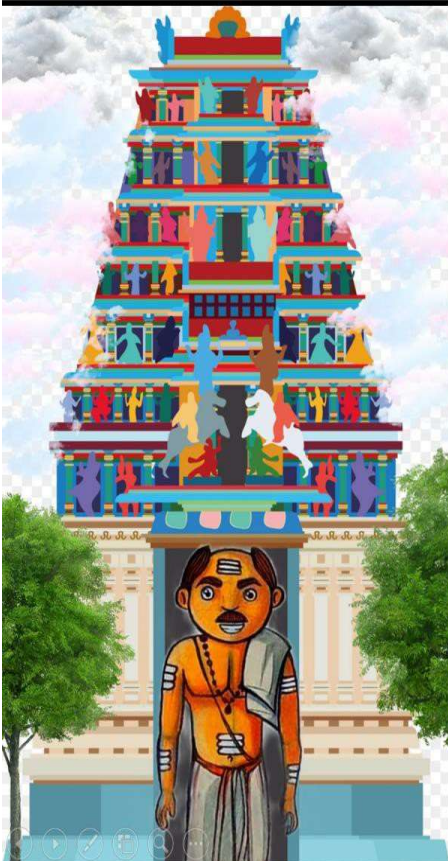
Ramanandha Sastry was the son of Pakshi Lakshamana Sastry , the high priest of the Rameswaram temple.



Later, Ramanadha Sastry became high priest of the Rameswaram temple.

Aravindan went into the business of arranging transport for pilgrims.

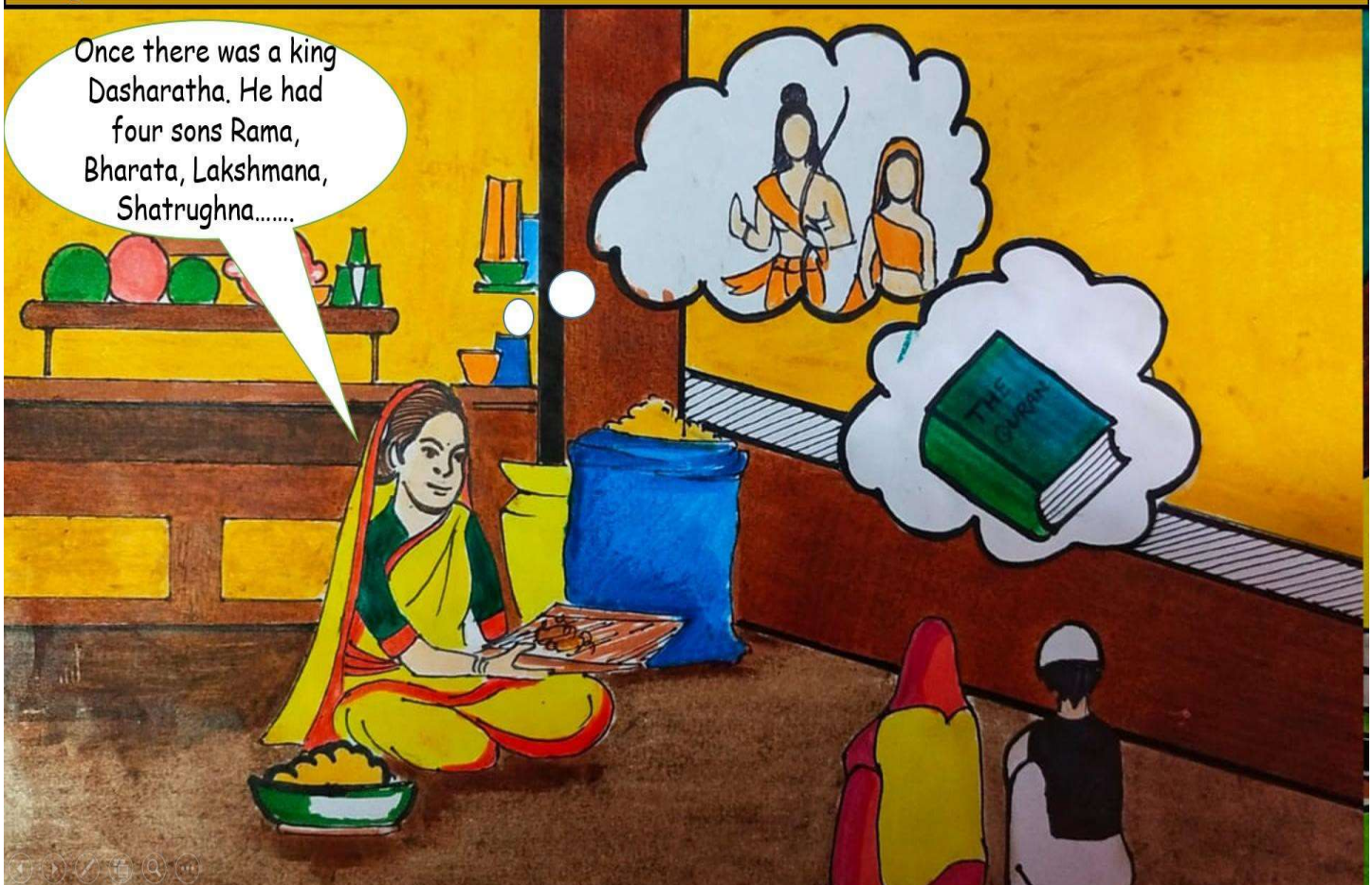
Sivaprakashan became a catering contractor for the Southern Railways.



During the annual Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam ceremony, our family used to arrange boats with a special platform for carrying idols of the Lord from the temple to the marriage site, situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha.



The events from the Ramayana and the life of the Prophet were the bedtime stories , my mother and grandmother would tell us.



When I was in fifth standard at the Rameswaram Elementary School, a new teacher came to our class. My attire was the identification of my religion, which was different than other students.



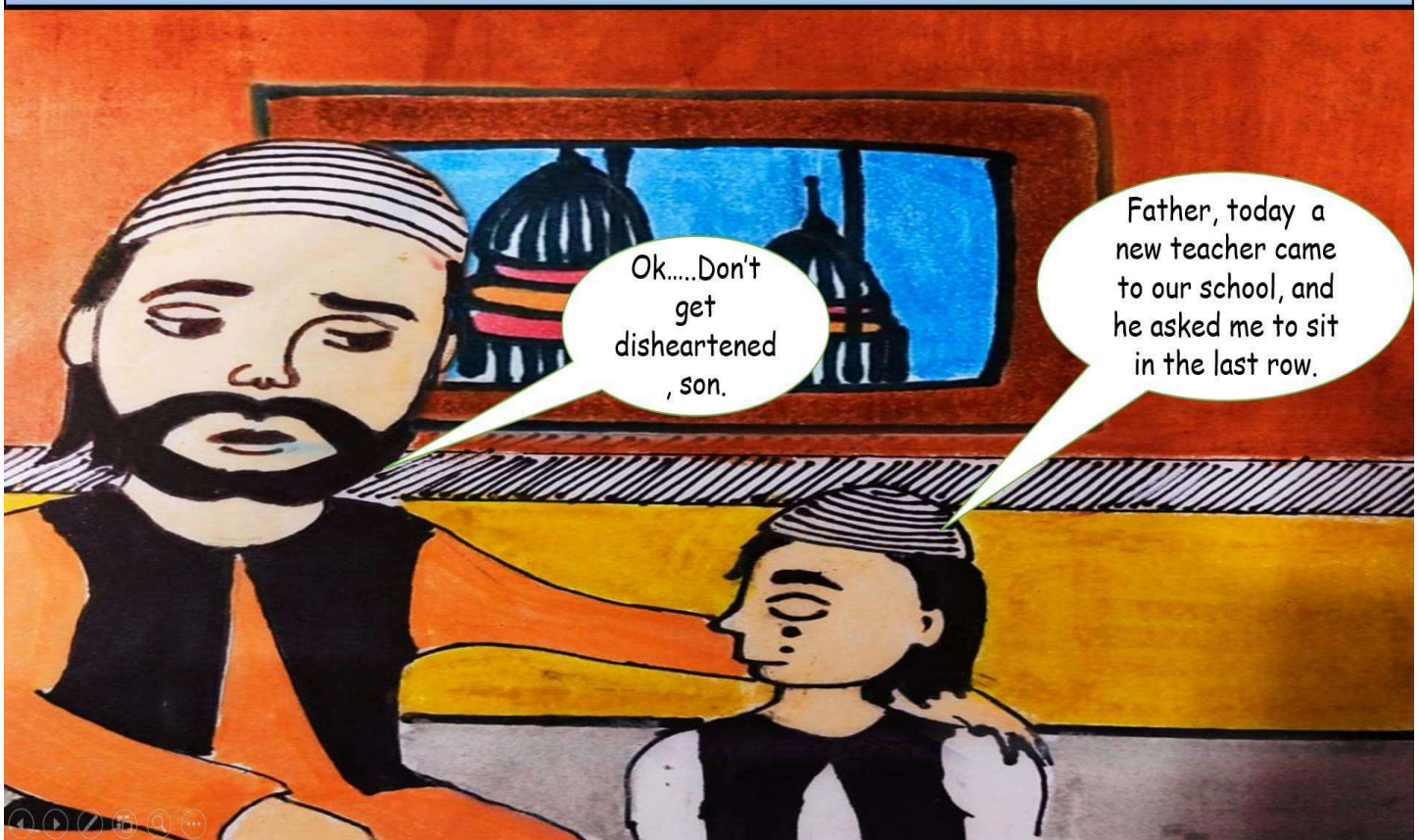
I always sat with Ramanadha Sastry in the front row. The new teacher couldn't stomach a Hindu priest's son sitting with a Muslim boy.



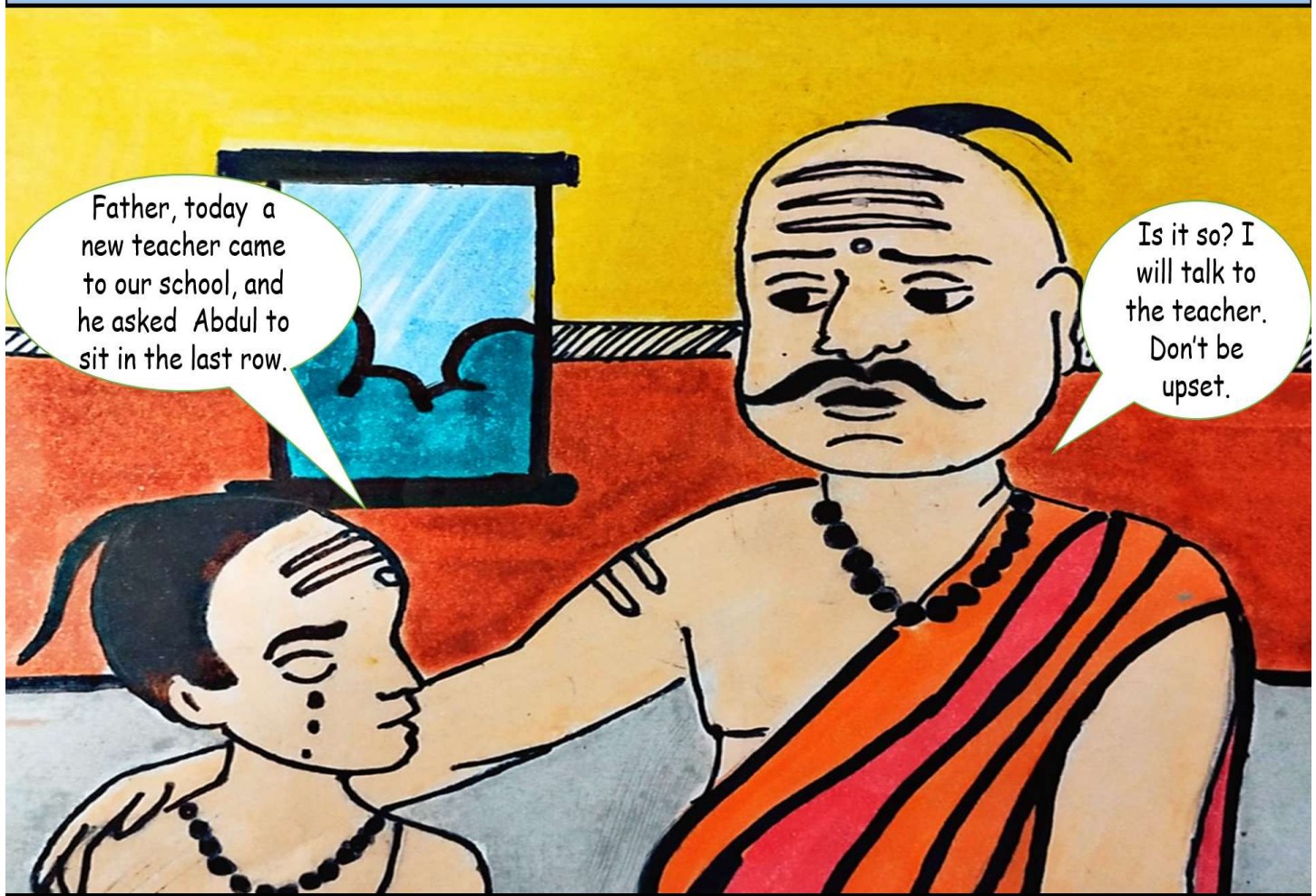
I was sad ; the image of Ramanadha Shastry weeping , when I was shifted to the last row , left a lasting impression on me.



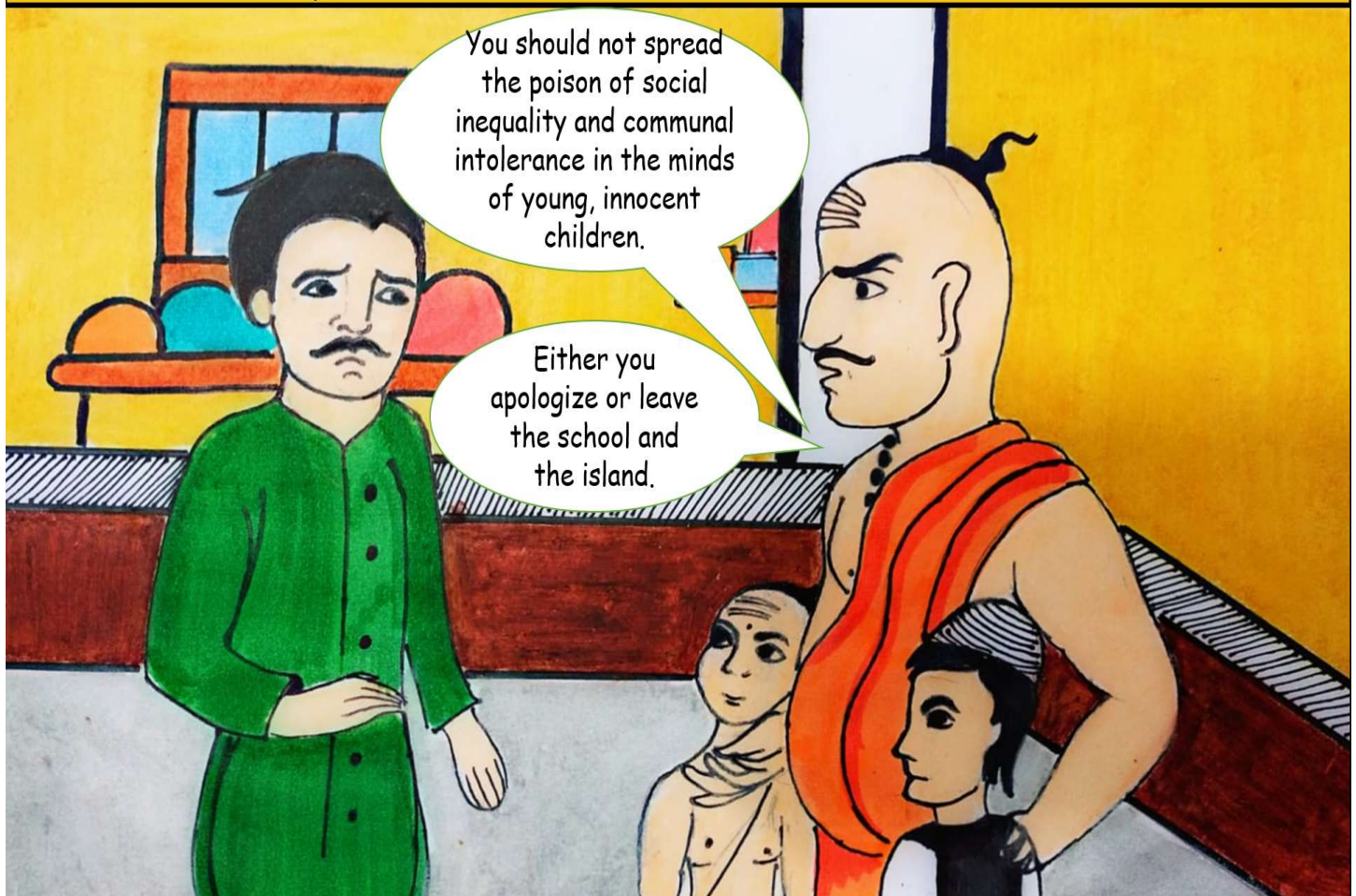
After the school I shared the incident with my father.



Ramanadha also shared the incident with his father.



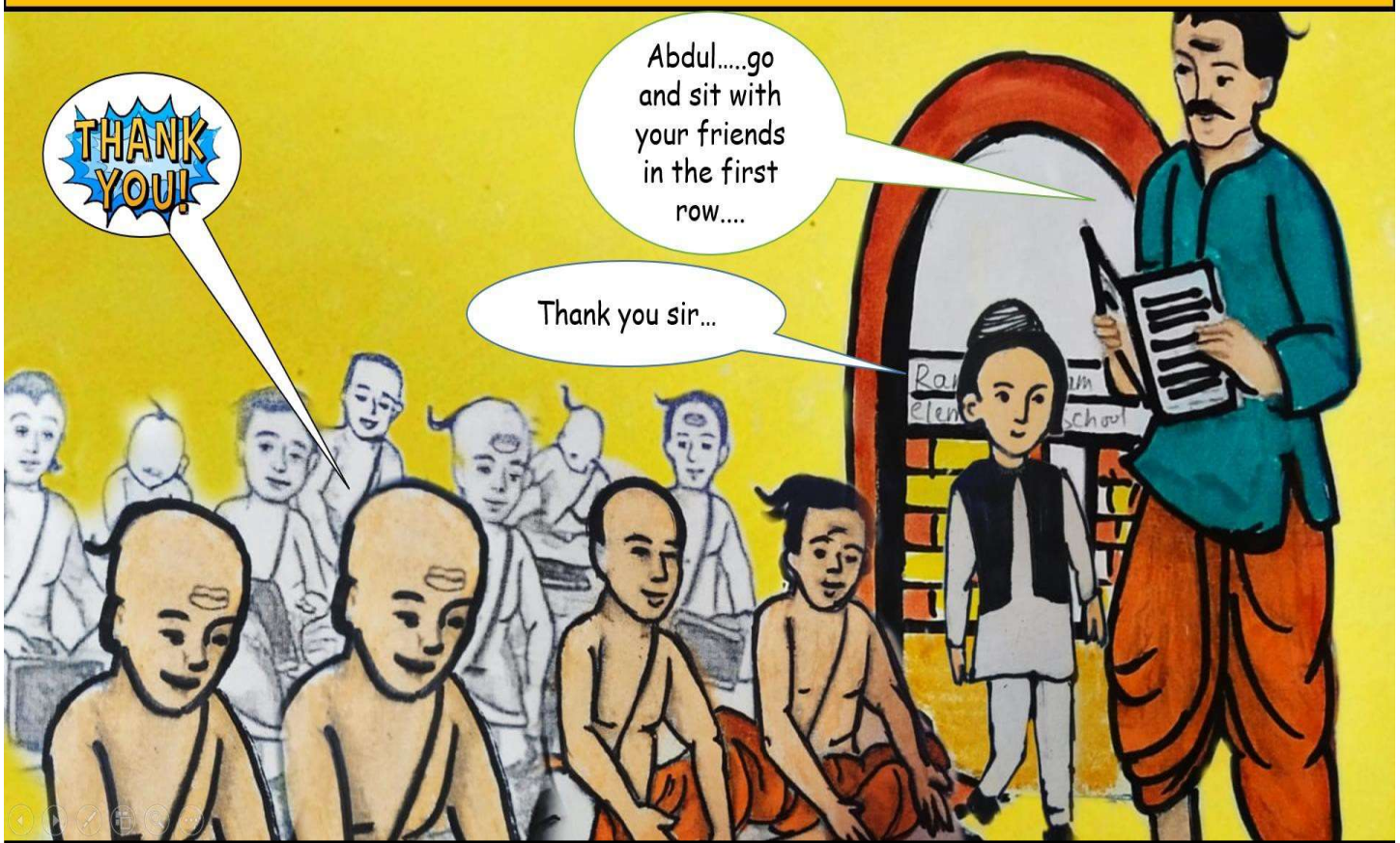
Lakshamana Sastry summoned the teacher.



Lakshmana Sastry's strong conviction ultimately reformed the new teacher.



Next Day, in the school..... Finally we all were happy...



WORKSHEET - 3

I. Add prefix to make antonyms of the given words.

1. equality _____
2. advantages _____
3. front _____
4. formed _____
5. tolerance _____

II. Complete the following sentences.

1. APJ Abdul Kalam's full name is _____
2. He was born in _____.
3. He used to distribute _____ during the World War II.
4. He used to read the headlines in _____.
5. He had three friends named _____, _____, _____
6. _____, his science teacher always motivated him to grow.

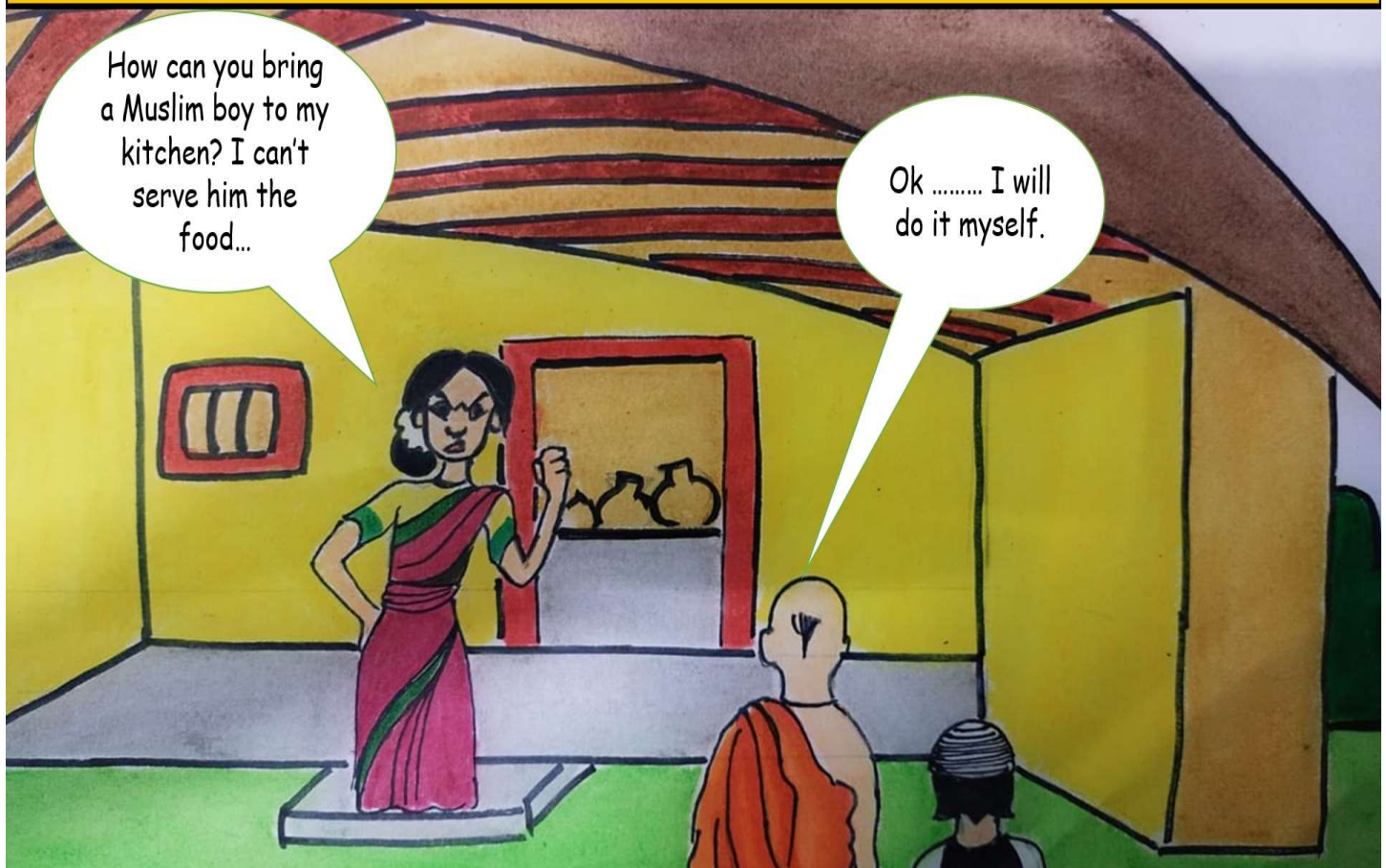
The Small society of Rameswaram was very rigid in terms of the segregation of social group. However some people like my Science teacher, Sivasubramania Iyer, though an orthodox Brahmin with a very conservative wife , was something of a rebel. He did his best to break the social barriers.



Sivasubramania Iyer used to spend hours with me and always motivated me to grow.



One day, he invited me to his home for a meal. His wife was horrified at the idea of inviting a Muslim boy in her ritually pure kitchen.



Sivasubramania Iyer not only served me food with his own hands but also sat beside me to eat his meal. His wife watched us from behind the kitchen door.



After the meal.....



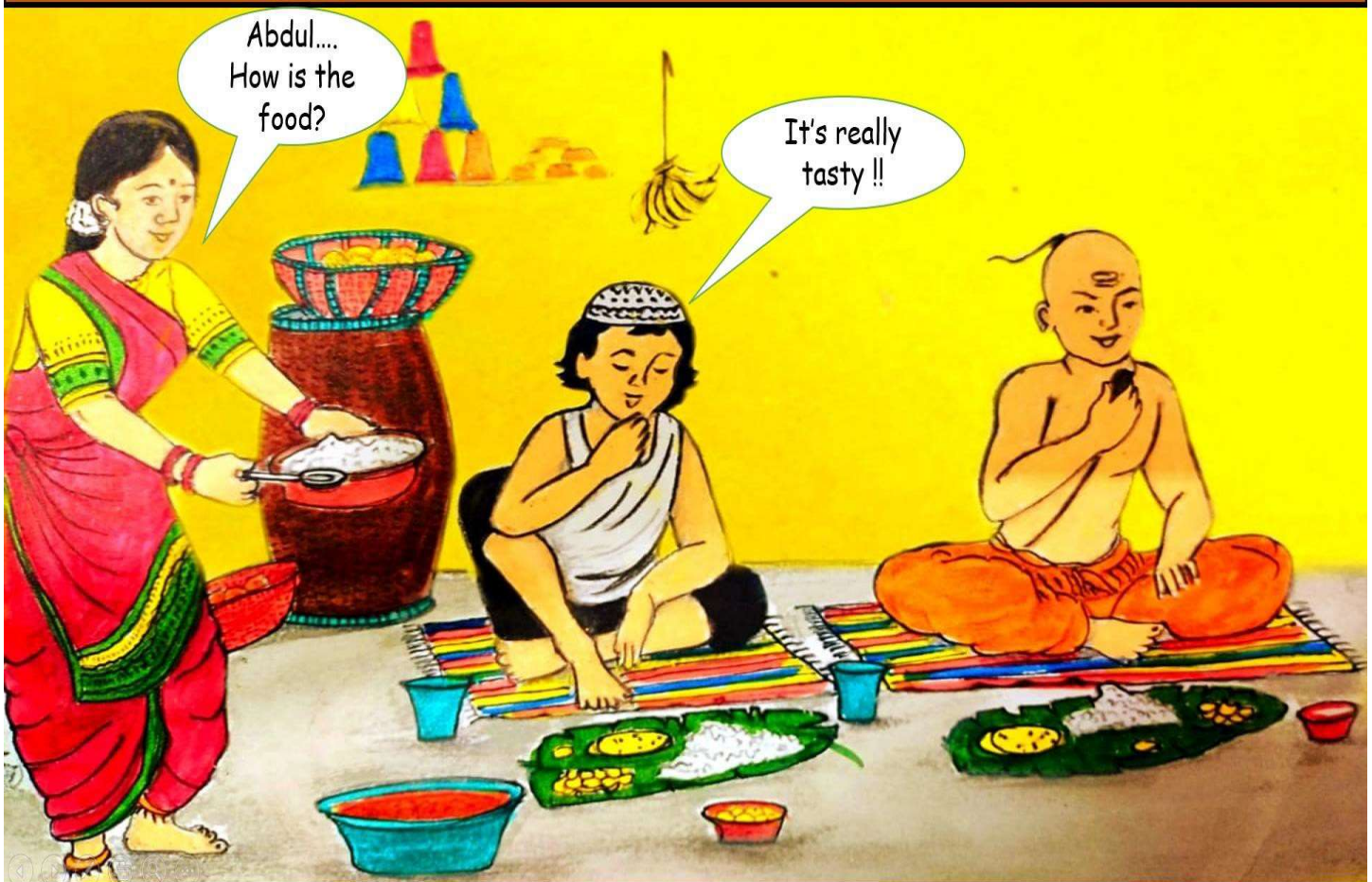
I was a little hesitant but he told me not to get upset.



Later, she regretted for her behaviour.....



Next week, when I visited his house, his wife took me inside her kitchen and served me food herself.



The Second World War was over and India's freedom was imminent.



Indians will build their own India.....

The whole country was filled with an unprecedented optimism.

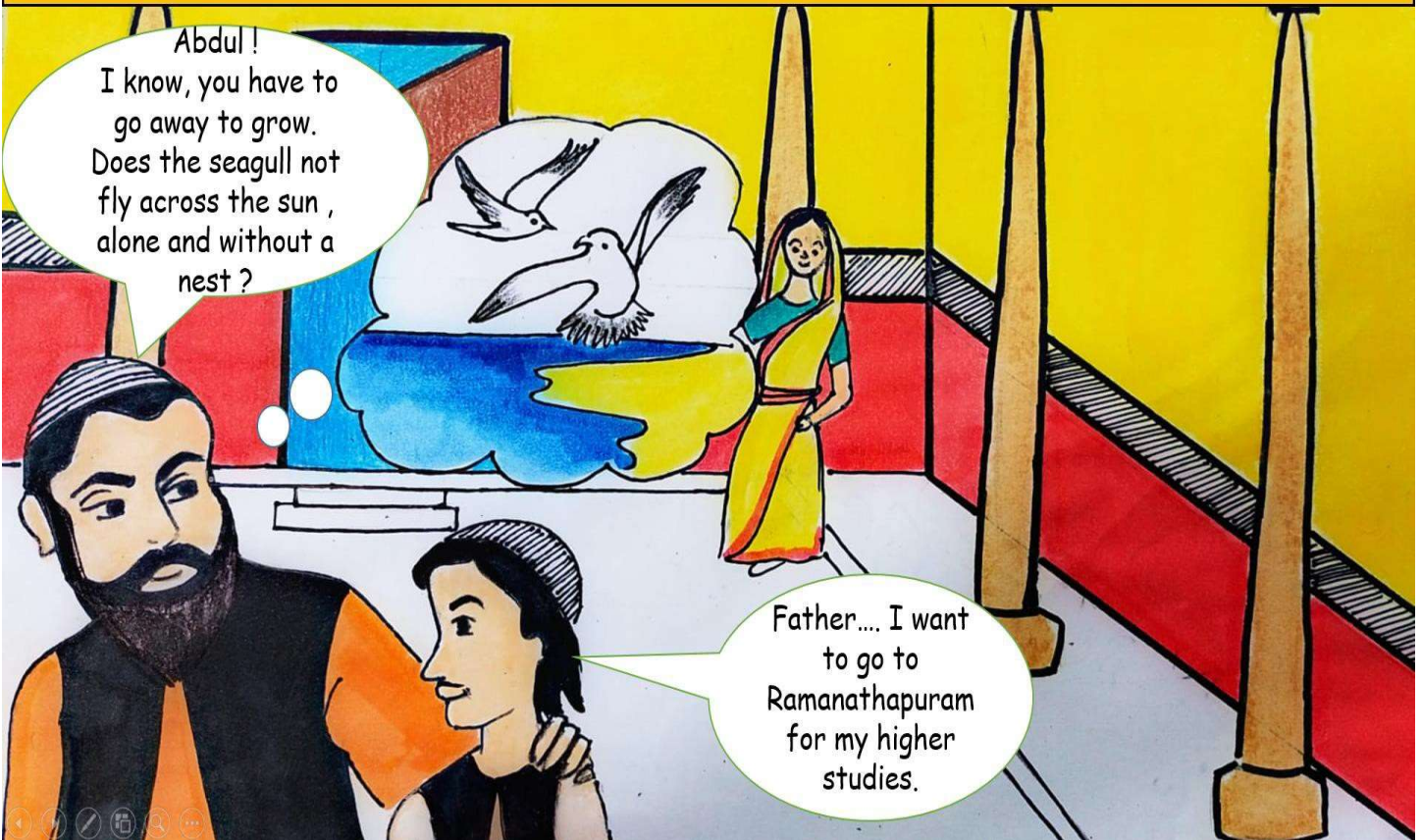


I wanted to pursue higher education so, I asked my father for his permission.

Abdul !

I know, you have to go away to grow. Does the seagull not fly across the sun , alone and without a nest ?

Father.... I want to go to Ramanathapuram for my higher studies.



He convinced my hesitant mother, by quoting Khalil Gibran.....



Ashiamma
Your children are not your
children.
They are the sons and daughters
of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not
from you.
You may give them your love but
not your thoughts.
For they have their own thoughts.

**“AS A CHILD OF GOD, I AM GREATER THAN
ANYTHING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO ME”**



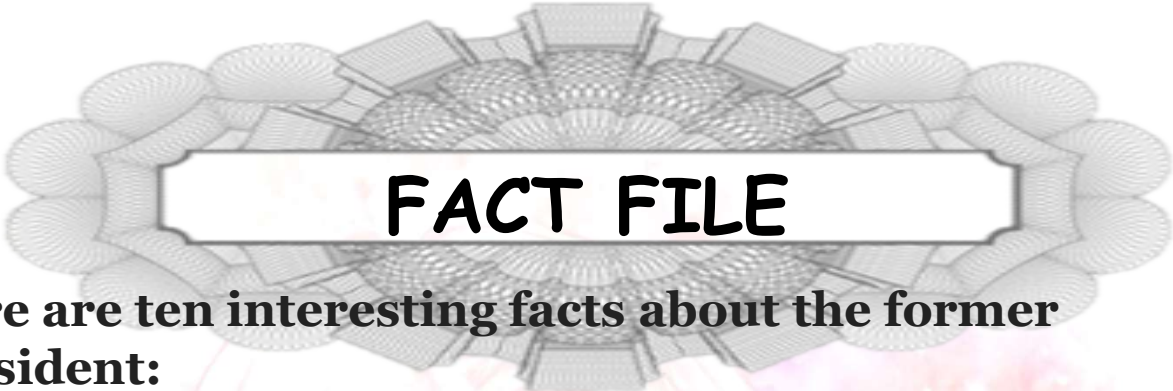
A vibrant illustration featuring a large, smiling face of an elderly woman with white hair. The background is a colorful sunset or sunrise scene with a lighthouse, palm trees, and small houses. The overall mood is peaceful and inspirational.

SUMMARY

The chapter “My Childhood” is an extract of the autobiography, “Wings of Fire” written by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam who was the eleventh president as well as a great scientist of our country whose projects in space, defence and nuclear technology guided India into the twenty first century. In this extract, he speaks about his childhood, relatives, friends and the atmosphere of his surroundings. He tells that he was born in a middle class Tamil family in the island town of Rameswaram. It was situated in the Madras state. At first, he speaks about his father who was neither well educated nor much wealthier, but yet he was very kind hearted and wise person. He used to avoid all luxuries for all his family members but all the necessary things were provided to all. His mother was an ideal helpmate of his father. Overall he had a very secure childhood.

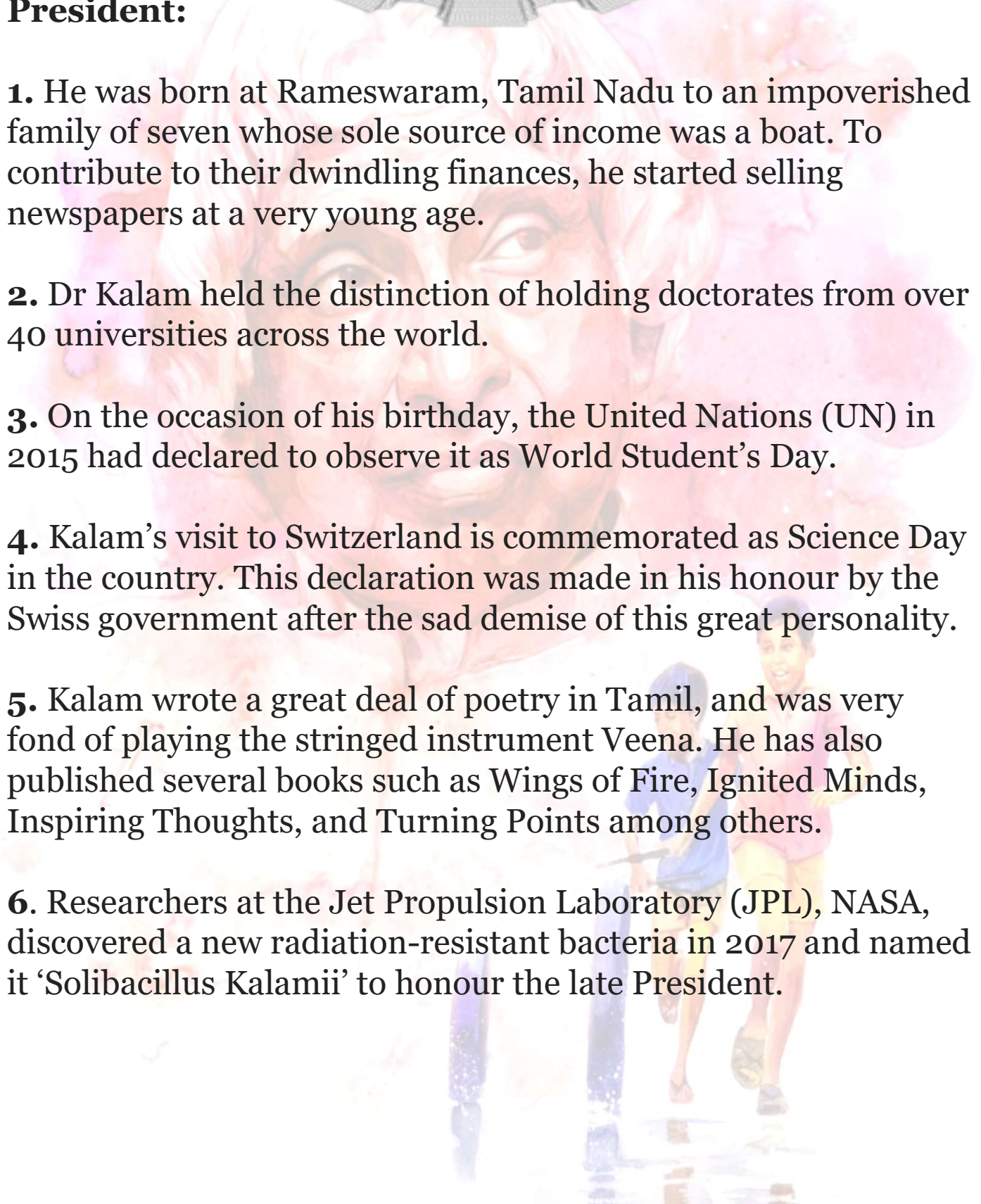
During the second world war, when suddenly the demand of tamarind seeds increased, Kalam started to collect and sell the seeds in the market and earned his first income. When the town was affected by the war he was provided a job by his cousin Samsuddin to catch the bundles of the newspapers with him on the Rameswaram road thrown out from the moving train. And by this work he got his first wages. Kalam says that he along with his brother and sister was inherited honesty and self discipline from his father and faith in goodness and deep kindness from his mother. He had three good friends from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families. Among them Ramanadha Shastry became the priest of the Rameswaram temple, Aravindan started a business in transport for visiting pilgrims and Sivaprakassan became a catering contractor in the railways.

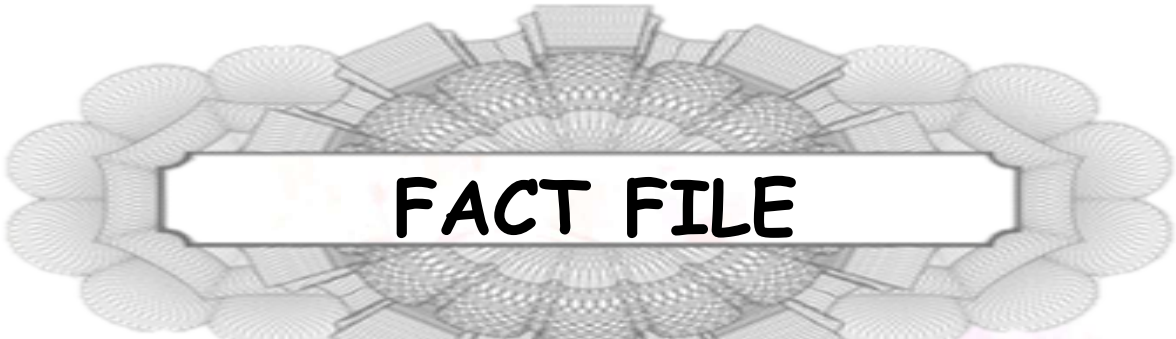
He writes further that despite being from a Muslim family, they used to arrange boats for carrying idols of lord Rama. Further he speaks about two stories which proved the social discrimination as well as the attempt of some to remove such situations. First when a Hindu teacher sent him from first row to last because Kalam was Muslim. But that teacher was scolded a lot by the priest of that town for this activity and second when his science teacher invited him for having a meal in his house, the wife of the teacher at first refused to serve him because he was a Muslim boy but next week when he was again invited, the mindset of his teacher's wife had changed and she served him with her own hands. After the second world war when he asked his father for permission to go to the district headquarter for further education, his father not only allowed him to go but also convinced his mother that our children may have different thoughts than that of us.



FACT FILE

Here are ten interesting facts about the former President:

- 1.** He was born at Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu to an impoverished family of seven whose sole source of income was a boat. To contribute to their dwindling finances, he started selling newspapers at a very young age.
 - 2.** Dr Kalam held the distinction of holding doctorates from over 40 universities across the world.
 - 3.** On the occasion of his birthday, the United Nations (UN) in 2015 had declared to observe it as World Student's Day.
 - 4.** Kalam's visit to Switzerland is commemorated as Science Day in the country. This declaration was made in his honour by the Swiss government after the sad demise of this great personality.
 - 5.** Kalam wrote a great deal of poetry in Tamil, and was very fond of playing the stringed instrument Veena. He has also published several books such as Wings of Fire, Ignited Minds, Inspiring Thoughts, and Turning Points among others.
 - 6.** Researchers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), NASA, discovered a new radiation-resistant bacteria in 2017 and named it 'Solibacillus Kalamii' to honour the late President.
- 



FACT FILE

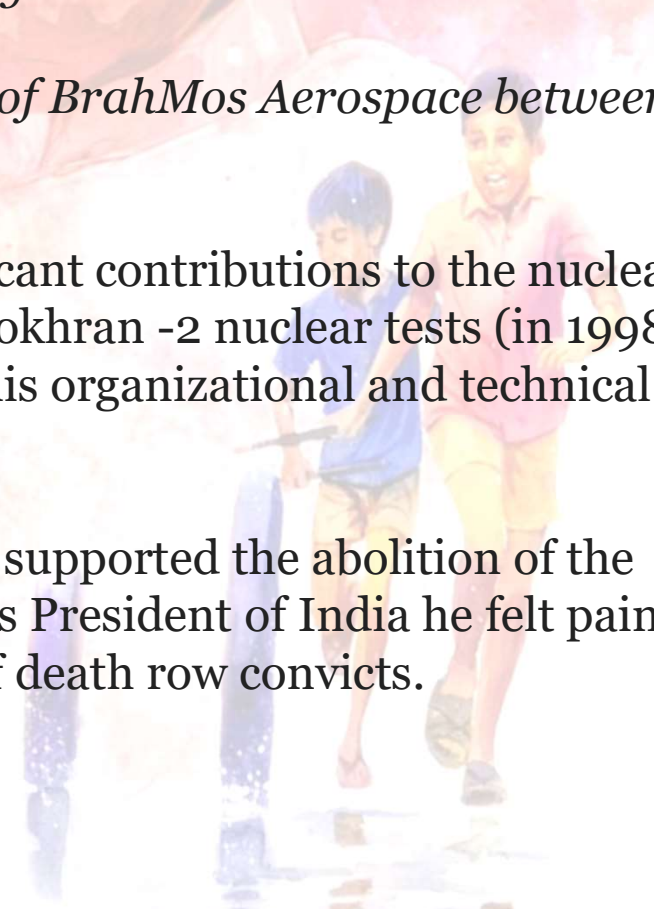
7. Kalam was known as the 'Missile Man' of India due to his continued, successful work with ballistic missiles and launch vehicle technology. Here are the reasons:

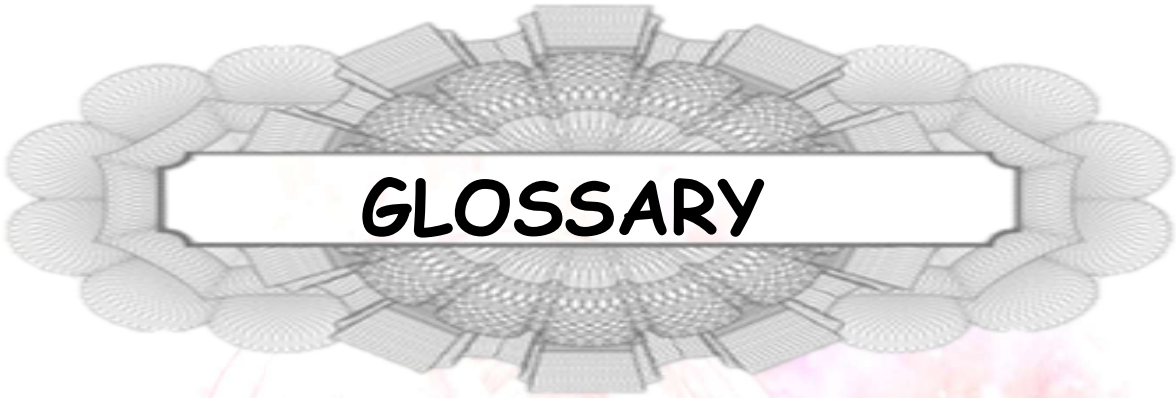
- *He was the think tank behind India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III).*
 - * *He was the Project Director of India's first satellite Rohini.*
 - * *When in DRDO, he was the chief of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program and developed 5 missiles: Nag, Akash, Trishul, Agni, Prithvi.*
- *He was the backbone of the operation and development of Prithvi and Agni missiles and also designing indigenous weapons by bringing together various institutions.*

8. *He led to the formation of BrahMos Aerospace between Russia and India.*

9. Kalam also made significant contributions to the nuclear capabilities of India. The Pokhran -2 nuclear tests (in 1998) were successful thanks to his organizational and technical support.

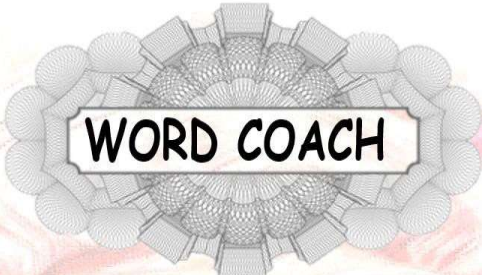
10. Throughout his life, he supported the abolition of the death penalty saying that as President of India he felt pain in deciding mercy petitions of death row convicts.





GLOSSARY

1. **erstwhile**: former
 2. **innate**: inborn; (a quality or feeling) in one's nature
 3. **generosity of spirit**: his soul sought to help others who were needy
 4. **undistinguished**: ordinary or common
 5. **austere**: simple, strict and severe
 6. **princely sum**: generous amount (here, ironic)
 7. **Allied Forces**: the armies of U.K., U.S.A. and Russia during the Second World War
 8. **casualty**: loss
 9. **orthodox**: strict
 10. **could not stomach**: could not tolerate
 11. **downcast**: sad or depressed
 12. **summoned**: called
 13. **bluntly**: speaking in a direct and honest way, even if this offends or upsets people.
 14. **segregation**: separation
 15. **perturbed**: upset
 16. **confronted**: faced, tackled
 17. **imminent**: about to happen
 18. **unprecedented**: never done or know before.
- 



WORD COACH

- a. Which word is opposite of usual?
- b. Which word is similar to anticipated?
- c. Which word is similar to strong belief?
- d. Which word is opposite of extraordinary?
- e. Which word is similar to 'a sudden flow'?
- f. Which word is the opposite of delighted?

undistinguished

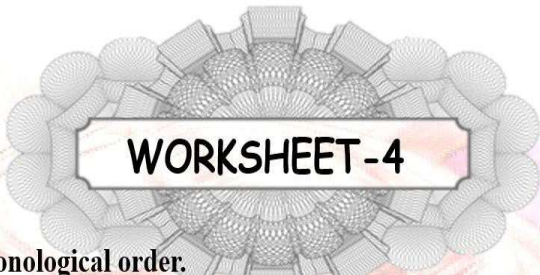
conviction

surge

unprecedented

downcast

imminent



WORKSHEET -4

I. Arrange the events in chronological order.

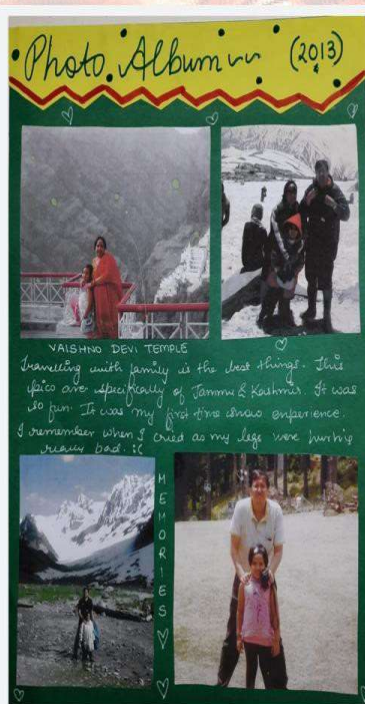
- a) I helped Samsuddin in distributing newspapers in Rameswaram .
- b) He quoted Khalil Gibran to my hesitant mother.
- c) I asked my father for permission to leave Rameswaram.
- d) My family used to arrange boats for carrying idols to the marriage site.
- e) Next week when I visited his house, she served me food with her own hands.
- f) The first casualty came in the form of the suspension of train halt in Rameswaram station.

II. Complete the following statements with the appropriate words from the lesson.

- a) I was born into a _____ Tamil family.
- b) My mother was an ideal _____ to my father.
- c) During the Second World War, a sudden demand for the _____ erupted.
- d) The newspaper has to thrown out on the Rameswaram road , between Rameswaran and _____.
- e) I always sat in the front row with _____.
- f) Sivasubhramania Iyer has a _____ wife.

ART INTEGRATION ACTIVITY

Create a photo album comprising pictures of the memorable time spent with your family, Friends and teachers. Include pictures of social celebrations. Write a few lines describing the experiences.



Writing Skill

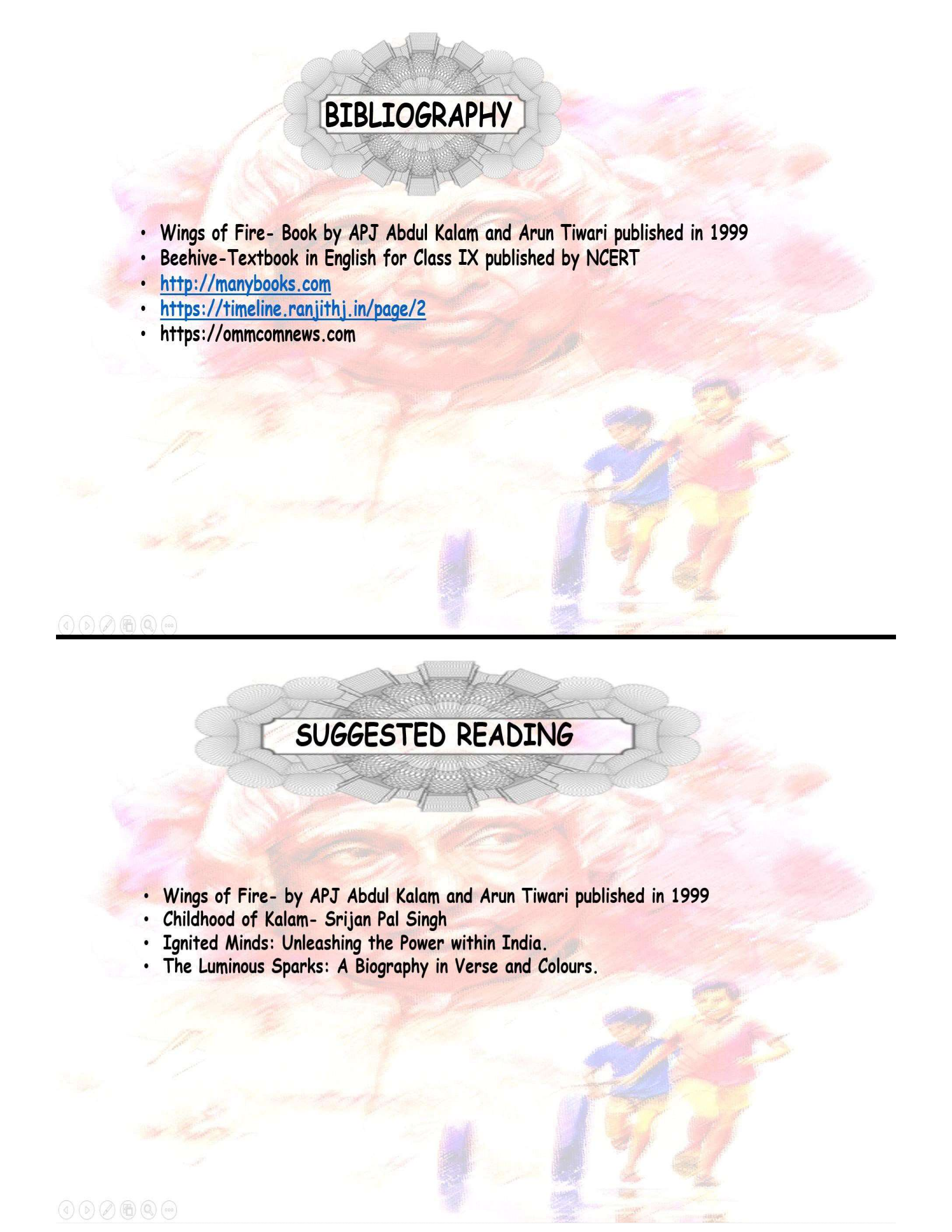


Two children, a boy in a blue shirt and a girl in a pink shirt, are running happily towards the right. The boy is in the foreground, and the girl is slightly behind him. They are both smiling and looking forward. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor setting.

Analyse the picture carefully and find out any ten words of your choice. Use these words/ adjectives to write a descriptive paragraph on Dr. A.P.J ABDUL KALAM.

Dr. A.P.J ABDUL KALAM.

Dr. A.P.J ABDUL KALAM.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Wings of Fire- Book by APJ Abdul Kalam and Arun Tiwari published in 1999
- Beehive-Textbook in English for Class IX published by NCERT
- <http://manybooks.com>
- <https://timeline.ranjithj.in/page/2>
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SUGGESTED READING

- Wings of Fire- by APJ Abdul Kalam and Arun Tiwari published in 1999
- Childhood of Kalam- Srijan Pal Singh
- Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power within India.
- The Luminous Sparks: A Biography in Verse and Colours.

MESSAGE



SHRI MAHESH CHOPRA

**HONY. SECRETARY,
DAVCMC**

At the outset, I would like to appreciate the CBSE for such a riveting initiative of introduction of Graphic Novels as a popular format in every classroom.

As their wholehearted support to this, DAV Public School, Thane has made all earnest efforts to develop this graphic novel – My Childhood for Std IX . The engrossing illustrations along with the text and the plethora of activities will surely enhance many literacy skills ranging from understanding the sequence of events, interpreting characters' non-verbal gestures, making inferences, to enriching vocabulary of the children. It is very certain that with the introduction of such novels, every child will be a reader of today, tomorrow and everyday !