

12. Children Ask Kalam

Share with the class anything you know about Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.



President
Dr. Shri A.P.J.

Abdul Kalam spends hours every week connected with children across the nation, thinking about their future and thinking through their issues.

Here are Dr. Kalam's answers to the questions that some children have asked him.

Dhanraj, Std. VIII, City:
Kasargod.

Question: *What is your full name and who was your best friend in school ?*

Kalam: My full name is Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam. During my school days Pakshi Ramanatha Sastry was my best friend.

Joshi Bhoomi, Std XI, Institution Kotak Kanya Vinay Mandir, City: Rajkot

Question: *How far is the 'favour of fortune' necessary?*

Kalam: Hard work comes first. Fortune will favour you if you are persistent in hard work. There is a famous saying. "God helps those who help themselves." There is another saying, that it takes many years of hard work to make an overnight success.

Devesh Ranjan, Institution NIC, City: New Delhi

Question: *Please tell me, who would have been the first scientist in the world ?*

Kalam: Science was born and survives only by questions. The whole foundation of science is questioning. And as parents and teachers know well, children are the source of unending questions. Hence, child is the first scientist.

B. Ishita, Std. VI, Institution St Bedes School, City: Chennai

Question: *What is the secret behind remembering various formulas of science & maths.*

Kalam: By constant application one can remember various formulas of science and maths.

Umang Dave, Std. IX, Institution Silken Academy, City: Mumbai

Question: *Which has been the happiest day of your life ?*

Kalam: I was once working with doctors to get light weight Floor Reaction Orthosis (FROs) for polio affected persons. After taking the measurement, when the

children were fitted with it, weighing 1/10th of the original weight which they were carrying, the children started running, walking and pedalling cycles. Their mobility brought tears of joy in the eyes of their parents. The sight of happiness on their faces was bliss to me.

R. Arovinth, Std. III, Institution St. Bedes School, City: Chennai

Question: *Can you tell us any unforgettable incident from your childhood ?*

Kalam: I am reminded of my class V teacher, Shri Sivasubramania Iyer. He taught us in his lectures how birds fly. He showed us real life examples at the seashore of Rameswaram. It is an unforgettable occasion which etched in my memory forever. It helped me to take up the study of science.

Abhilash Verma, Std. VIII, Institution Police Modern School, City: Etawah

Question: *You are an ideal man. Please give us your suggestions to become good human beings.*

Kalam: Hard work and scientific temper combined with spirituality will make you a good human being. Try to find good things in others.

Harsh Chandak, Std. VII, Dr. S. Radha Krishnan Vidyalaya, City: Malad, Mumbai.

Question: *You give away bravery awards every year. What is your definition of courage ?*

Kalam: Saving others from disaster without minding about your own safety is courage.

Master Rahul Mehta, Std. VIII, City: Ahmedabad

Tejas Sawant, Std. IX, City: Bombay.

Question: *What is your message to the citizens of India?*

Kalam: My message to the youth is given in the ten-point Oath, which I normally administer, and is as follows -

- * I will pursue my education or the work with dedication and I will excel in it.
- * From now onwards, I will teach at least ten persons to read and write, those who cannot read and write.
- * I will plant at least ten saplings and shall ensure their growth through constant care.
- * I will visit rural and urban areas and permanently wean away at least five persons from addiction and gambling.
- * I will constantly endeavour to remove the pain of my suffering brethren.
- * I will not support any religious, caste and language differentiation.
- * I will be honest and endeavour to make a corruption free society.
- * I will work for becoming an enlightened citizen and make my family righteous.
- * I will always be a friend of the mentally and physically challenged and will work hard to make them feel normal, like the rest of us.
- * I will proudly celebrate the success of my country and my people.

Word Meanings

fortune	fate, luck
persistent	to keep trying with determination
foundation	base on which knowledge can be constructed
secret	to keep hidden from others
application	the act of doing something
pedalling	application of human energy (through legs) to run a cycle
bliss	happiness
seashore	banks of the sea
etched	to make designs on metal, wood
temper	state of mind (anger, sweet-natured)
spiritually	devotion, related to religion
bravery	act of courage
disaster	an event causing great damage
courage	act of bravery
orbit	to go around (eg. moon orbits the earth)
gravity	the force of attraction that pulls on object to the ground (eg. apple falling to the ground)
dedication	commitment to something
addiction	bad habit which is difficult to give up
endeavour	effort
corruption	dishonest practice
ensure	to allow work to be completed

Reading Comprehension**A. Answer the following questions:**

1. What suggestion does President Kalam give to children for remembering formulas of science ?
2. Describe Kalam's happiest day.
3. Why does the President remember his class teacher so much?
4. What is 'courage' according to Dr. Kalam?
5. Which point do you like the most in the 10 point oath? Why ?

B. Look at the lesson and complete the sentences:

1. Kalam's full name is
2. His best friend in school was
3. His favourite teacher was
4. FRO's help persons.
5. Courage according to Kalam is

Vocabulary

A. Match the following. Clues are given to help you to complete the proverb.

Sr.	A / Clues	B
1.	Tiny drops make (search for water)	make more noise.
2.	A stich in time (search for number)	mightier than the sword.
3.	An apple a day (search for a profession)	do not bite.
4.	Empty vessels (search for noise)	a mighty ocean.
5.	The pen is (search for weapon)	saves nine.
6.	Failure is the (search for achievement)	keeps the doctor away.
7.	Barking dogs (search for what dogs do!)	is the best policy.
8.	Make hay (search for planet)	stepping stone to success.
9.	Honesty (end with 'cy')	while the sun shines.
10.	A friend in need (rhymes with 'friend')	is a friend indeed.



B. Make sentences using the proverbs given to you in exercise A:

Example: Shyam falls sick frequently. After taking him to the doctor, his mother encouraged him to have an apple by using the proverb, “An apple a day, keeps the doctor away”.

C. Select the appropriate word to complete the sentence:

- (1) Abdul Kalam is an to young people. (achievement/inspiration)
- (2) Teachers play an important part in children's interest in subjects. (forcing/shaping)
- (3) The Defence Research and Development Organisation a lot of scientists. (employs/arrests)
- (4) Kalam believes that children will help a strong nation. (citizens/build)
- (5) It is important for children to develop their (personalities/brains)

Grammar



Choose the answer from the box given below and answer as given in the example (Work in pairs):

Ask your partner:

“What will you do for the society when you grow up?”
I will take care of old people

take care of old people.
 look after small children.
 help the needy.
 try to establish peace.
 work for education of girls .
 try to uplift the poor.
 encourage people to keep this environment clean.
 work for removing superstitions
 work for removing bad traditions
 try to stop child marriages.
 raise awareness to save water
 encourage people to plant more trees

Writing

A. (I) If you were given a chance to ask President Kalam 3 questions - What would they be?

- (i)

 (ii)

 (iii)

(II) Now try to write what answers President Kalam would have given to the above questions:

- Ans. (i)

 Ans. (ii)

 Ans. (iii)

B. Read the dialogue given below:

The man : Where are you going?
 The girl: I am going to super market.
 The man : Please allow me to come with you.
 The girl : I don't mind
 The man : What is your father?
 The girl: My father is a businessman
 The man : What is your fortune?
 The girl: My talent is my fortune.
 The man : Then I can't marry you.
 The girl : I didn't ask you to marry me.

Complete the story with the help of the dialogues given above.

A man met a girl on the road. He asked her if he could The ---
 -----agreed. So he walked along with her and asked and
 she replied that her father was a and
 The man said that he could not She replied
 that she never asked him.

Present the story of the man and the girl in the form of a skit.

Activity

A. Listen to the passage carefully and complete the table.

See Appendix-1 Lesson-12

Task-Sheet

Sr. No.	Plant/Spice/Fruit	Ailment	Process
1	lemon
2	cold/slight fever
3	one centimetre of fresh ginger to be taken before travelling

B. Look at the cartoons given below. Speak a few sentences about what you like in the cartoons.



1. I like the cartoon because
2. What do you understand from -
 - Cartoon 1 -
 - Cartoon 2 -
 - Cartoon 3 -
 - Cartoon 4 -

Project

Identify 10 proverbs in your local language.

	Local language proverb	Meaning
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Use the following proverb in your sentence. Meaning is given.

Proverb

Cut your coat according to your cloth.

Meaning

Don't try to live beyond your means.

