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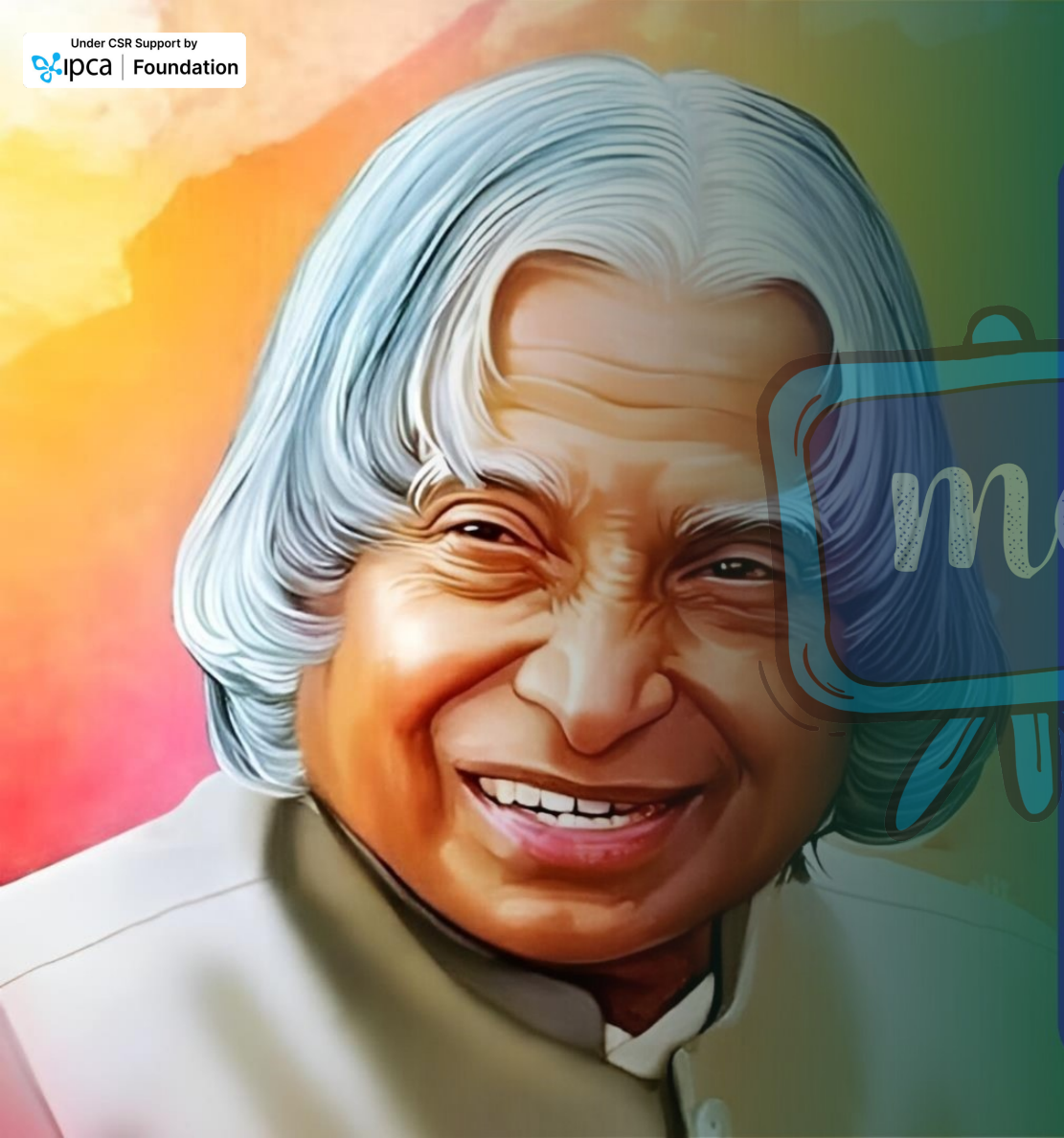

CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

CH-6 : My Childhood

Part – 1

APJ Abdul Kalam's Childhood In Rameswaram

ARPITA SHARMA

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OVERVIEW

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1. APJ Abdul Kalam's Childhood In Rameswaram
2. Challenging Social Norms

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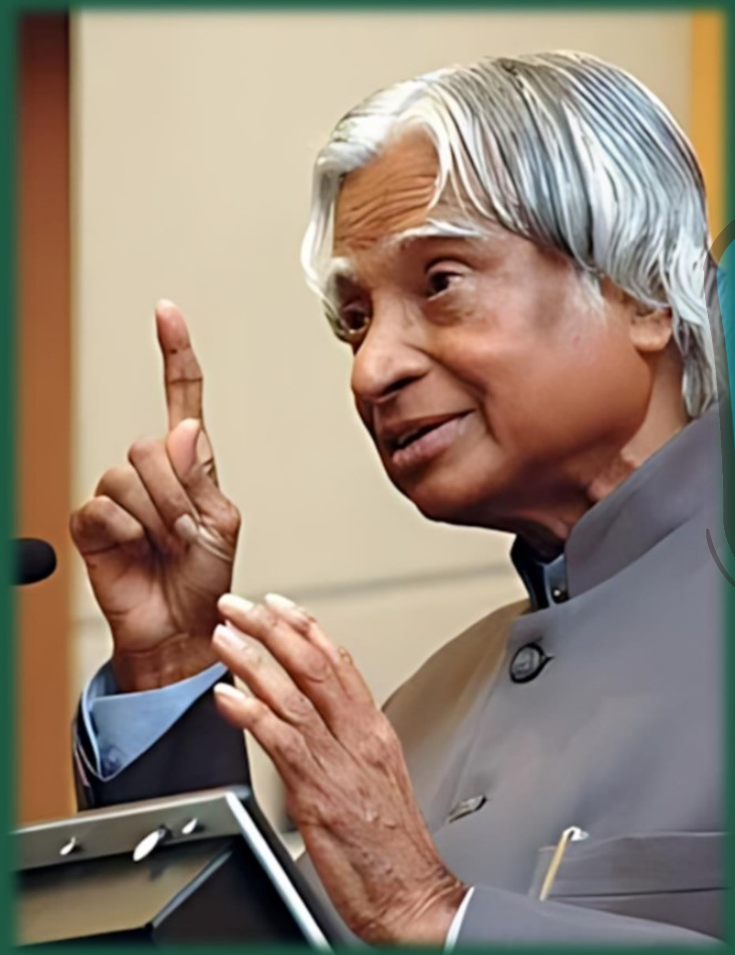

BEFORE YOU READ

- Can you think of any scientists, who have also been statesmen?
- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, whose projects in space, defence and nuclear technology guided India into the twenty-first century, became our eleventh President in 2002.
- In his autobiography, Wings of Fire, he speaks of his childhood.

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Kalam

1. I was born into a middle-class Tamil family in the island town of Rameswaram in the erstwhile Madras State. My father, Jainulabdeen, had neither much formal education nor much wealth;



Middle-class	:	मध्यम वर्ग
Island	:	द्वीप
Town	:	नगर
Erstwhile	:	भूतपूर्व
Formal	:	औपचारिक
Education	:	शिक्षा
Wealth	:	धन

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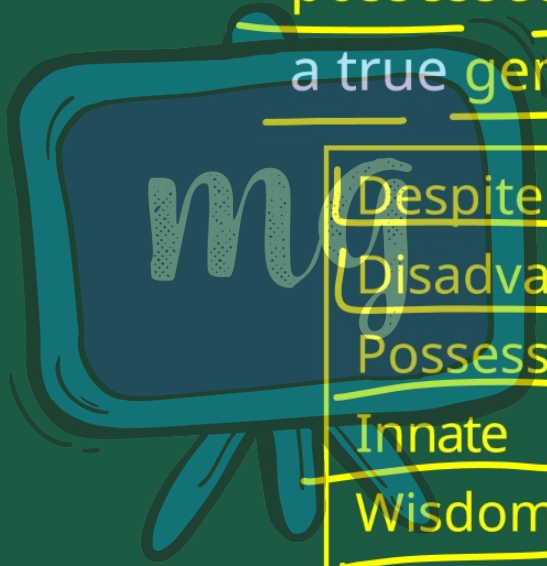
despite these disadvantages, he possessed great innate wisdom and a true generosity of spirit.



Despite	:	के बावजूद
Disadvantages	:	प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियां
Possessed	:	युक्त होना
Innate	:	जन्मजात
Wisdom	:	बुद्धिमता
Generosity	:	उदारता
Spirit	:	आत्मा

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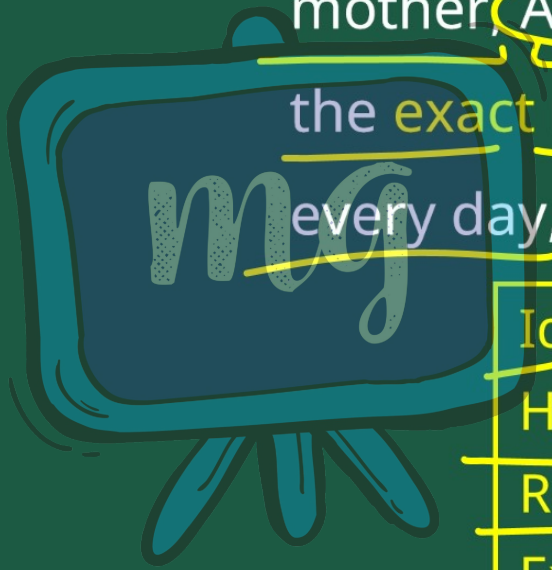
He had an ideal helpmate in my mother, Ashiamma. I do not recall the exact number of people she fed every day, but I am quite certain



Ideal	:	आदर्श
Helpmate	:	सहायक
Recall	:	याद
Exact	:	सटीक
Quite	:	काफी
Certain	:	निश्चित

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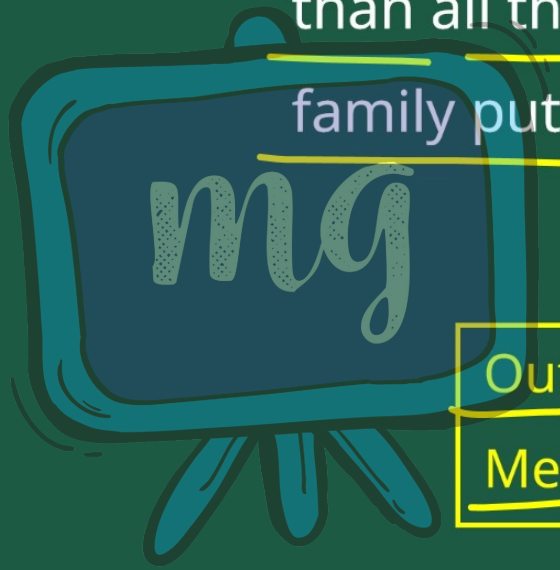
that far more outsiders ate with us than all the members of our own family put together.



Outsiders	:	बाहरी लोगों
Members	:	सदस्य

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2. I was one of many children — a short boy with rather undistinguished looks, born to tall and handsome parents. We lived in our ancestral house,

Undistinguished	:	साधारण
Handsome	:	रूपवान
Ancestral	:	पैतृक

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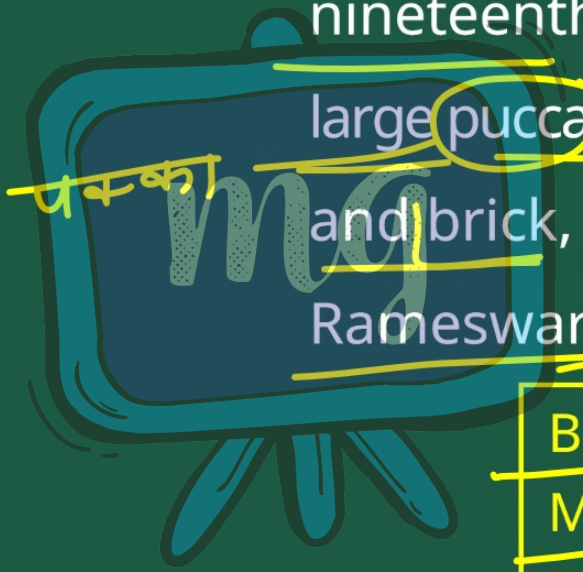
Which was built in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was a fairly large pucca house, made of limestone and brick, on the Mosque Street in Rameswaram.

पक्का



Built	:	बनाया
Middle	:	मध्य
Fairly	:	काफी
Limestone	:	चूना पत्थर

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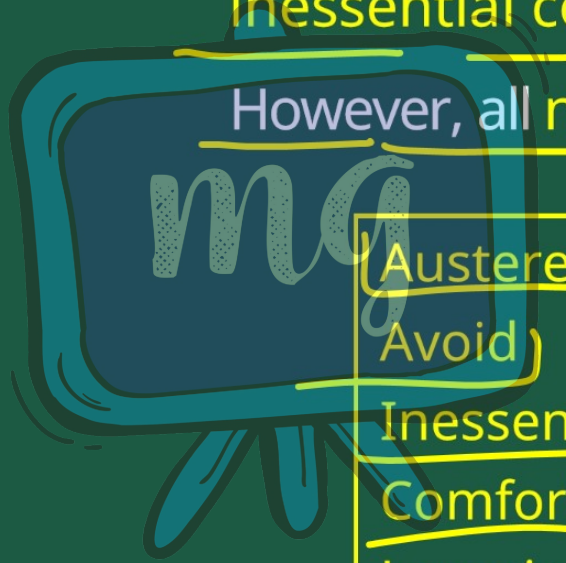
My austere father used to avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries. However, all necessities were provided for,



Austere	:	सीधे-सादे और सख्त
Avoid	:	से दूर रहना
Inessential	:	अनावश्यक
Comforts	:	सविधा
Luxuries	:	विलास वस्तुएं
Necessities	:	आवश्यकताएं
Provided	:	मुहैया किया हुआ

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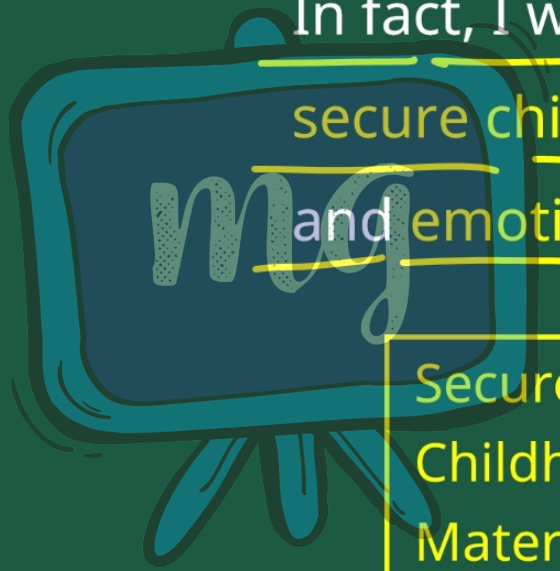
in terms of food, medicine or clothes. In fact, I would say mine was a very secure childhood, both materially and emotionally.



Secure	:	सुरक्षित
Childhood	:	बचपन
Materially	:	आर्थिक रूप से
Emotionally	:	भावनात्मक रूप से

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3. The Second World War broke out in 1939, when I was eight years old. For reasons I have never been able to understand, a sudden demand for tamarind seeds erupted in the market.

Reasons	:	कारणों
Understand	:	समझना
Sudden	:	अचानक
Demand	:	माँग
Tamarind seeds	:	इमली के बीज
Erupted	:	फूट पड़ना

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I used to collect the seeds and sell them to a provision shop on Mosque Street. A day's collection would fetch me the princely sum of one anna. My brother-in-law Jallaluddin would tell me stories

Collect	:	इकट्ठा करना
Provision	:	रसद/भोजन
Collection	:	संग्रह
Fetch	:	लाना
Princely sum	:	पर्याप्त राशि (यहाँ लोहे के सिक्के)
Anna	:	पुराना भारतीय सिक्का (छ: पैसे)

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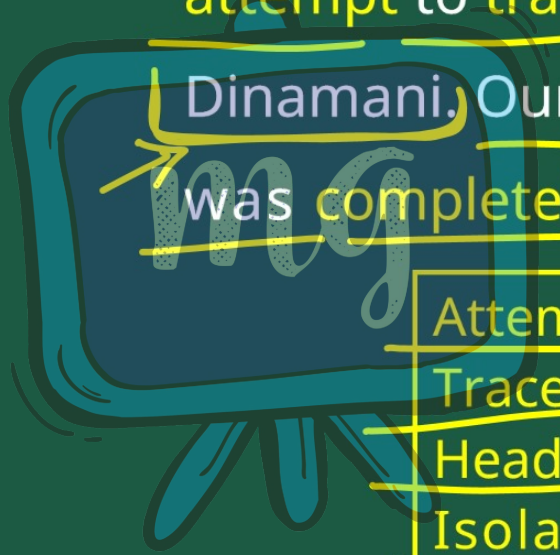
about the War which I would later attempt to trace in the headlines in Dinamani. Our area, being isolated, was completely unaffected by the War.



Attempt	:	प्रयास
Trace	:	पता लगाना
Headlines	:	शीर्षकों
Isolated	:	अलग
Completely	:	पूरी तरह से
Unaffected	:	अप्रभावी

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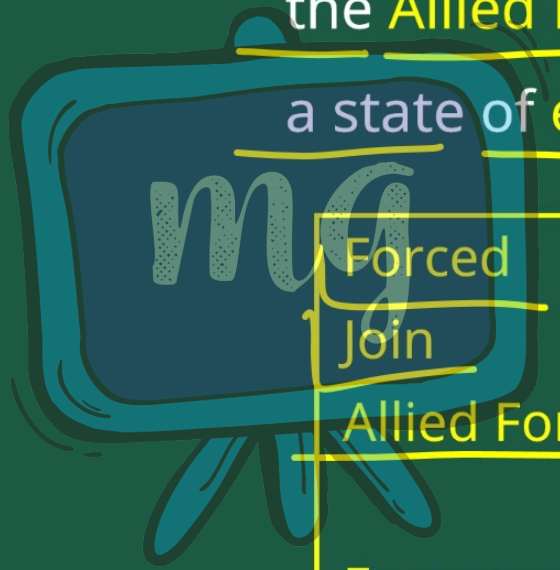
But soon India was forced to join the Allied Forces and something like a state of emergency was declared.



Forced	:	मजबूर
Join	:	जुड़ना
Allied Forces	:	मित्रपक्ष शक्तियां (U.K., U.S.A and Russia)
Emergency	:	आपातकाल
Declared	:	घोषित

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The first casualty came in the form of the suspension of the train halt at Rameswaram station. The newspapers now had to be bundled and thrown out from the moving train on the Rameswaram Road between Rameswaram and Dhanuskodi.

Casualty	:	दुर्घटना
Suspension	:	निलंबन
Halt	:	ठहरना
Bundled	:	गठरी बनाकर
Thrown out	:	बाहर फेंकना

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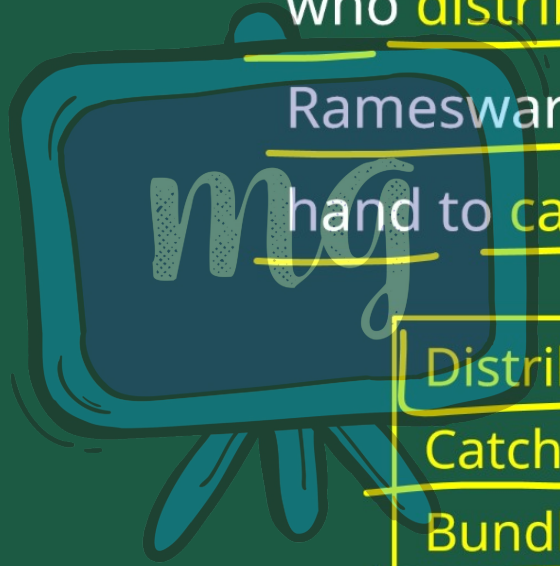
That forced my cousin Samsuddin, who distributed news-papers in Rameswarm, to look for a helping hand to catch the bundles and,



Distributed	:	वितरित करना
Catch	:	पकड़
Bundles	:	गठरी

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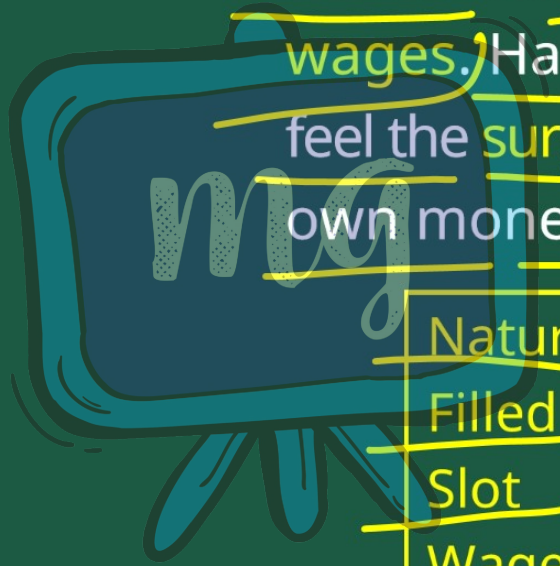
as if naturally, I filled the slot. Samsuddin helped me earn my first wages. Half a century later, I can still feel the surge of pride in earning my own money for the first time.



Naturally	:	सहजत:
Filled	:	भर दिया
Slot	:	खाली जगह
Wages	:	वेतन
Surge	:	आकस्मिक भावावेश
Pride	:	गौरव

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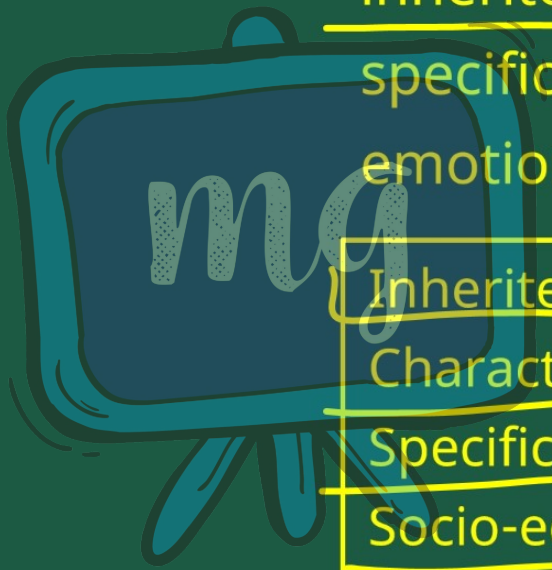
4. Every child is born, with some inherited characteristics, into a specific socio-economic and emotional environment, and



Inherited	:	आनुवांशिक
Characteristics	:	विशेषताएँ
Specific	:	विशिष्ट
Socio-economic	:	सामाजिक-आर्थिक
Emotional	:	भावनात्मक
Environment	:	वातावरण

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trained in certain ways by figures of authority, I inherited honesty and self-discipline from my father; from my mother, I inherited faith in goodness



Trained	:	प्रशिक्षित
Figures of authority	:	अधिकारयुक्त लोग
Inherited	:	आनुवांशिक
Honesty	:	ईमानदारी
Self-discipline	:	आत्मनुशासन
Faith	:	आस्था, विश्वास
Goodness	:	भलाई

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and deep kindness and so did my three brothers and sister. I had three close friends in my childhood- Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan. All these boys were from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families.

Kindness	:	दयालुता
Orthodox	:	रुढ़िवादी
Families	:	परिवारों

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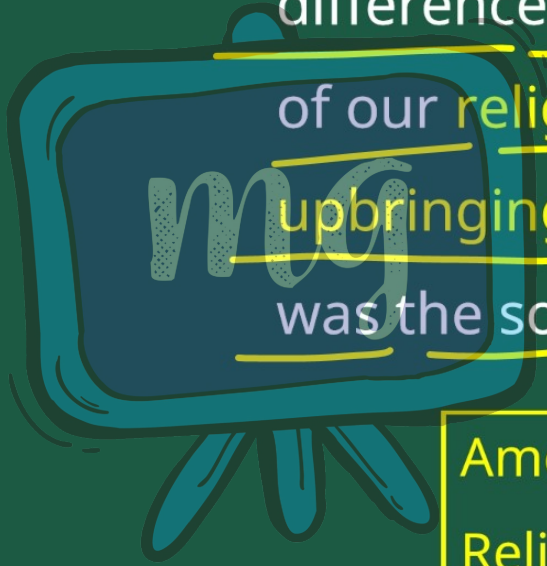
As children, none of us ever felt any difference amongst ourselves because of our religious differences and upbringing. In fact, Ramanadha was the son of Pakshi Lakshmana



Amongst	:	के बीच में
Religious	:	धार्मिक
Upbringing	:	लालन-पालन

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Sastry, the high priest of the Rameswaram temple. Later, he took over the priesthood of the Rameswaram temple from his father; Aravindan went into the business of arranging transport for visiting pilgrims;

Priest	:	पुजारी
Priesthood	:	पुरोहित का पद
Business	:	व्यापार
Arranging	:	व्यवस्था करना
Transport	:	यातायात साधन
Visiting	:	आगंतुक
Pilgrims	:	तीर्थयात्री

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and Sivaprakasan became a catering contractor for the Southern Railways.



Catering : खानपान

Contractor : ठेकेदार

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5. 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

Annual	:	वार्षिक
Ceremony	:	समारोह
Arrange	:	व्यवस्था
Platform	:	मंच
Idols	:	मूर्तियों

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the marriage site, situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha which was near our house.



Site : स्थल

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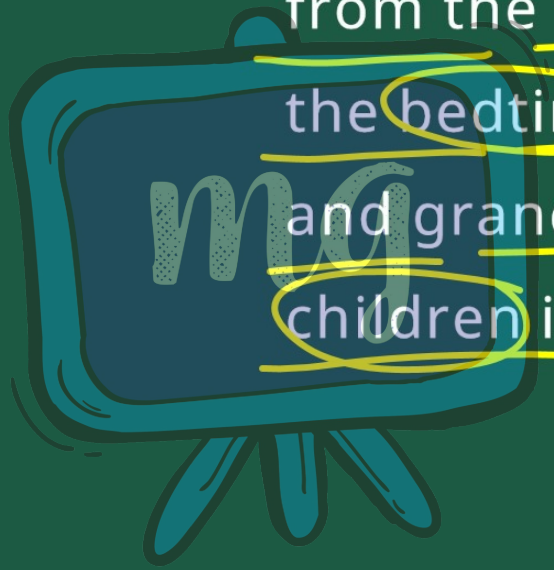
Events from the Ramayana and from the life of the Prophet were the bedtime stories my mother and grand mother would tell the children in our family.



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LEARNING OUTCOMES

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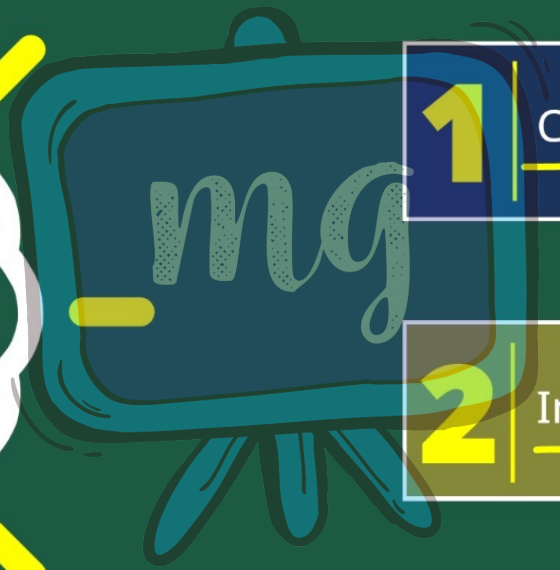

1 Childhood Experiences

2 Interfaith Friendship's Value

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ASSESSMENT

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1 Who is the narrator of ‘My childhood”?

A APJ Abdul Kalam

B Samsuddin

C Jalaluddin

D Gainal Abedin

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ASSESSMENT

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2 Kalam was born into a .....

A Malayallam family.

B Tamil family.

C Gujarati family.

D Oriya family.

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ASSESSMENT

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3 Who was Samsuddin?

A Kalam's cousin.

B Kalam's friend.

C Kalam's helper.

D Kalam's employer.

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4 Kalam earned his first wage by .....

A selling news papers.

B selling tamarind seeds.

C working in a factory.

D assisting Samsuddin.

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ASSESSMENT

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5 What did Kalam inherit from his father?

A Honesty.

B Discipline.

C Confidence.

D Honesty and self-discipline.