



GENERAL ENGLISH IV SEMESTER

**GIVE US A ROLE MODEL
BY A P J ABDUL KALAM
KEY POINTS**

**ANIL KUMAR N.J
SBMJEC
V.V.PURAM**



THE TEXT

- ▣ Quote from Mahatma Gandhi
- ▣ “Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it even if I didn’t have it in the beginning.”
- ▣ Kalam says “the fundamental thing is that you must know that you deserve the good things in life, the benefits that God bestows.”
- ▣ Unless our students and the young believe that they are worthy of being citizens of a developed India, how will they ever be responsible and enlightened citizens?



- ▣ He doesn't think "abundance and spirituality are mutually exclusive or that it is wrong to desire material things."
- ▣ Abundance, brings along with it security and confidence that help to preserve our freedom.
- ▣ When we begin to appreciate that spirit and matter are both part of existence, are in harmony with each other, we shall realize that it is wrong to feel that it is somehow shameful or non-spiritual to desire material things.
- ▣ It is perfectly alright to dream of a good life, an abundant life, a life full of pleasures and comforts and work for that golden era.



Kalam's meeting with school children

- ▣ First meeting at a high school in Tripura.
- ▣ Two questions of great interest.
- ▣ Where do we get a role model from, how do you get a role model?
- ▣ When you are growing up , say till 15 years, the best role model ..., would be your father, your mother and your school teacher.
- ▣ Gives personal example of his life.
- ▣ As it is said: Behind the parents stands the school and behind the teacher the home.
- ▣ A proper education would help nurture a sense of dignity and self-respect among our youth.
- ▣ Student's question : Everyday we read in the newspaper or hear our parents talk about *atankavadis*. Who are they? Do they belong to our country?
- ▣ Kalam's answer : They are our own people. Sometimes we create them through political and economic isolation. Or they can be fanatics, sometimes sponsored by hostile nations trying to disrupt normal life through terrorism.



St. Mary's School, Dindigul in Tamilnadu

- ▣ Student's question: You always give a message to dream. Tell me why dream?
- ▣ A : “ Dream, dream, dream. Dream transforms into thoughts. Thoughts result in action.”
- ▣ Q :Another boy asked “please tell me, who would be the first scientist in the world?”
- ▣ A : The foundation of science is questioning. Children are the source of unending questions. Hence “Child is the first scientist.”
- ▣ His visit to Tezpur in Assam, a student asked him an interesting question. “Why cannot water from the Brahmaputra, which is in flood much of the time, be diverted to Rajasthan or Tamil Nadu which are starved of water?”
- ▣ He said “ India Vision 2020 demands from the young that they start a great mission of connecting rivers cutting across the states.



Questionnaire Continues

- ▣ Q : ‘Sir, will your Agni missiles cross the ocean and reach America?’
- ▣ A : ‘For us no country is our enemy to send Agni there. Particularly America is our friend. Agni symbolises our strength. It shows that India has all the capabilities.’
- ▣ Q : ‘Sir tell us which are your favourite books, that you loved and which have shaped your mind?’
- ▣ A : ‘Four books in my life have been close to my heart. I cherish reading them. The first is *Man the Unknown* by Alexis Carrel, a doctor turned philosopher a Nobel Laureate. This book highlights how the mind and body both have to be treated in an ailment as the two are integrated.
- ▣ The second book is Tiruvalluvar’s *Thirukkural*, which provide an excellent code of life.
- ▣ The third is *Light from Many Lamps* by Lillian Eichler. It illuminates how we live and has been an invaluable guide to me.
- ▣ The fourth is Holy *Quran* a constant companion.



- ▣ Addressing another gathering, one smart boy asked “ Who is our enemy?”
- ▣ “Poverty” was the answer given by the audience.
- ▣ The last question is “Tell me, sir, are Pakistani weapons stronger than Indian ones?”
- ▣ Abdul Kalam gives the answer, “This is a unique characteristic our country- to belittle our capabilities. It may even be genetic!” “India can design develop and produce any type of missile and any type of nuclear weapon. This is a capability of only four countries in the world have.”
- ▣ At the dawn of the millennium came the news that the human genome had been decoded.
- ▣ All the 30,000 genes that human beings carry today are identical to those of our Stone Age ancestors.
- ▣ One important characteristic is the desire for achievement.
- ▣ History shows the hunger for achievement is a highly evolved one and undoubtedly the strongest one.



- ▣ Dr. Vikram Sarabhai's vision succeeding over three decades through sustained and coordinated achievement.
- ▣ As we try to excel, role models play a guiding role.
- ▣ The power of Vikram Sarabhai was such that others took up his vision and completed it long after he was no more.
- ▣ His meeting with legendary personality , a role model herself is Lata Mangeshkar.
- ▣ On the occasion of inaugurating 450 bed hospital, he come to know that it would be treating nearly 30% of the patients free.
- ▣ He was touched by the fact that despite her wealth and fame, she had not lost sight of the fact that one needs to do all one can to help relieve the suffering of others.



- ▣ Role model can help us focus on what is correct for us as individuals, as groups and, of course, as a nation.
- ▣ They can lead us to success.
- ▣ Ancient India was a knowledge society and a leader in many intellectual pursuits, particularly in the fields of mathematics, medicine and astronomy.
- ▣ The text ends with a positive note that “ A renaissance is imperative for us to once again become a knowledge superpower rather than simply providing cheap labour in areas of high technology.”