

Follow That Dream

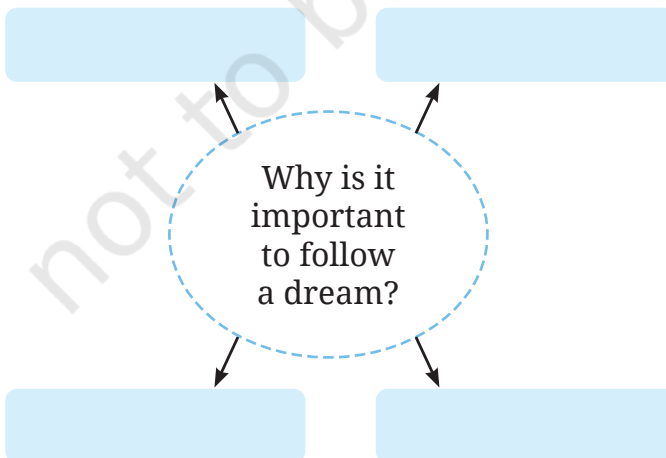


Reflect and Respond

- I Read the questions given below and share your answers with your classmates and teacher.
1. What is your dream?
 2. Who inspires you to dream?
 3. What qualities should you have in order to fulfil your dream?
 4. Abdul Kalam said, "Dream is not that you see in sleep, dream is something that does not let you sleep." Discuss.
- II What role can parents and community play to help children achieve their dreams?
- III Complete the given web chart. Give as many reasons as you can.



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Reading for Meaning



The following excerpt is a letter taken from a collection titled 'My Daughter, My Friend', by Irene Chua. Here she shares her deepest thoughts as a mother with her daughter, Ming. The letters celebrate the special bond that often exists between a mother and her teenage daughter. The mother shares valuable **insights** into life, equipping her daughter for its challenges.

insight:

clear and deep understanding

singularly:

exclusively

imperative:

necessary

plunge:

throw oneself into the activity

buoyed up:

kept afloat

19 June 1995

Dear Ming,

By all means follow that dream.

Great men and women become great because they have a dream and they pursue it till it comes true. What differentiates greatness from the ordinary is how much effort and sacrifice people invest to realise their dream. Do you know that to reach world-class standard in any field, one has to be **singularly** and intensively pursuing the subject for at least ten years?

It starts with a passion for a particular interest, then comes the conviction that it is **imperative** to realise it. Count the cost in years of effort, financial investments and sacrifice. Then if it is still burning in your blood and you are ready to commit yourself to the task, **plunge**. It could be in any field—sports, science, arts, business, or design. The road may be uphill most of the way and often you are **buoyed up** only by the knowledge that



you are doing what you love best and are doing the right thing. When stamina is running out, the prospect of success will keep you on track.

When you watch the Academy Awards for best actors and actresses and films, the winner always thanks a host of people that formed his/her support network. So, you see that for one winner, there is a group of people who stood by him/her.

It is good to be able to fulfil your dreams but for a lot of people, dreams remain dreams. Although everyone at one time or other has **wistfully** said to oneself, “I wish I could be this or the other,” they have never got beyond just wishful thinking. They could have preferred to trade their dream for security. Perhaps circumstances changed their lives. I know of people whose dream was to go to the then Raffles College, now the National University of Singapore, but the Japanese invasion during World War II changed forever their destiny. I know too, of people who had wished to finish secondary school but they had to go out to work so that they could support their siblings through school.

No, I am not going to put a wet blanket on your dreams, ...but you will also have to consider the years you need to chase your dream.

After all the obstacles are considered, if the burning conviction is still coursing through your veins, then go ahead and do something about it.

From my own experience, life itself may change a person’s dreams. These hopes and aspirations are no less than the original dream of younger days. To fulfill them you will need to negotiate a path through a maze of hurdles. The dream will take a much longer time to realise, and the people who

wistfully:
longingly

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dreamscape:
a world of
dreams

are participants in your **dreamscape** would be many more. For example, publishing this book is a dream I have chased in the last ten years. This was not the dream I had in my youth but my original dream has changed over the years. I am really quite excited about it. So, I wish at least one of your dreams comes true too.



Love, Mum



Check Your Understanding

- I State whether the following sentences are true or false. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.
1. Reaching the peak of skill in a field typically demands a focused and intense dedication for about a decade.
 2. The mother believes that significant effort and personal sacrifices are essential for turning aspirations into reality.
 3. The path to achieving the deepest desires has very little difficulty or a few obstacles.
 4. The mother is of the opinion that a person's life goals and hopes can evolve over time.
 5. Having a strong network of individuals can be a hurdle in pursuing one's ambition.
 6. The mother feels that pursuing a major life goal will not involve any financial expense or sacrifice.
 7. For many individuals, their aspirations remain just wishes because they don't move beyond mere daydreaming.





Critical Reflection

I Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. *It starts with a passion for a particular interest, then comes the conviction that it is imperative to realise it. Count the cost in years of effort, financial investments and sacrifice. Then if it is still burning in your blood and you are ready to commit yourself to the task, plunge. It could be in any field—sports, science, arts, business, or design. The road may be uphill most of the way and often you are buoyed up only by the knowledge that you are doing what you love best and are doing the right thing. When stamina is running out, the prospect of success will keep you on track.*

(i) Complete the analogy with a suitable word from the extract.

enthusiasm: passion:: belief: _____

(ii) Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence appropriately.

The author says that a realistic assessment of effort, investment and sacrifice is crucial for preventing _____.

- A. the need for external support network
- B. an early abandonment of the dream
- C. initial excitement from fading over time
- D. others from questioning one's commitment

(iii) Complete the following with the correct option from those given in the brackets.

The word 'plunge' as used in the extract indicates a _____ (complete/gradual) involvement in a task.

(iv) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The author's emphasis on 'when you are doing what you love best and are doing the right thing' works as a form of intrinsic motivation because _____.





(v) Mention one motivating factor besides 'prospect of success', that might keep a person on track, despite running out of stamina.

2. *From my own experience, life itself may change a person's dreams. These hopes and aspirations are no less than the original dream of younger days. To fulfil them you will need to negotiate a path through a maze of hurdles. The dream will take a much longer time to realise, and the people who are participants in your dreamscape would be many more.*

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The phrase 'life itself may change a person's dreams' suggests that dreams are not static but rather _____. (evolving/dynamic)

(ii) What does the author mean by, 'hopes and aspirations are no less than the original dream of younger days'?

(iii) Identify the phrase from the extract that indicates a complex and challenging journey.

(iv) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The author says, 'people who are participants in your dreamscape would be many more' because _____.

(v) What is the tone of the author in this extract?

- A. appreciative and celebratory
- B. excited and cheerful
- C. optimistic and encouraging
- D. eager and inquisitive

II Answer the following questions.

1. The letter begins thus, 'By all means follow that dream'. What do you think Ming must have written to her mother about?
2. How can one attain an international level of skill in any field? Mention any two ways.
3. What differentiates the mere dreamers from actual achievers?
4. How does Ming's mother use critical questions and personal anecdotes to persuade Ming and convey her message effectively?



5. How does Ming's mother balance encouragement with caution in her advice?
6. In the letter, Ming's mother specifically addresses the challenges people face in pursuing their dreams. Do you think this advice is still relevant in contemporary society? If yes, why? If no, why not?
7. What 'costs' in terms of effort, sacrifice, and time are you willing or unwilling to invest to pursue your goals?



Vocabulary and Structures in Context

I Read the following sentence from the text.

The dream will take a much longer time to realise, and the people who are participants in your dreamscape would be many more.

The word 'dreamscape' is a compound word where '-scape' means 'a view or scene of'.

Now, refer to a dictionary and find out the meaning of the following words.

mindscape	seascape	landscape	cityscape
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1. Fill in the blanks in the following dialogue between two friends with the words given in the box.

SNEHA Your Goa pictures were beautiful! That
(i) _____ was dreamy.

KIRAN Thanks! It was way better than our usual
(ii) _____, so peaceful.

SNEHA I get that. But sometimes the city lights
have their own charm.

KIRAN True, but I'm craving a quiet (iii) _____.
Forests, hills—something real.

SNEHA Yes, nature clears the (iv) _____,
doesn't it?

KIRAN Exactly. Let's plan a trip that soothes—
inside and out.



II Read each sentence carefully and choose the best meaning for the underlined expression. Then, use that expression in a sentence of your own.

1. She had a dream that seemed to burn in her blood, and she wasn't going to give up on it easily.

- (i) make her angry
- (ii) have a passionate desire
- (iii) cause physical pain
- (iv) become violent

2. Preparing for the final exam without proper notes felt like an uphill task.

- (i) a tough challenge
- (ii) a slow progress
- (iii) a hard routine
- (iv) a difficult choice

3. The team was buoyed up by their recent victory and felt confident about the next game.

- (i) energised by success
- (ii) encouraged by the result
- (iii) motivated to improve
- (iv) lifted in spirit

4. He thought he could ace the exam without studying, but that was just wishful thinking.

- (i) a clever shortcut but no real effort behind it
- (ii) a confident guess but lacking proper knowledge
- (iii) a hopeful belief but unlikely to be true
- (iv) a strong desire but based on facts and planning

5. Don't be a wet blanket—we're trying to have fun!

- (i) spoil-sport
- (ii) latecomer
- (iii) rule-breaker
- (iv) daydreamer



6. Excitement was coursing through her veins as she stepped onto the stage for the first time.
- hiding deep inside
 - flowing through her body
 - lingering in her thoughts
 - causing numbness

III Read the following sentence from the text.

After all the obstacles are considered, if the burning conviction is still coursing through your veins, then go ahead and do something about it.

Here, the first conditional is used to talk about real or possible situations in the future. Sometimes, instead of saying 'will + verb' in the main clause, we use an imperative (a command or advice).

Complete the sentences using your own words (imperatives):

- If the idea excites you, _____.
- If you hear strange noises, _____.
- If this seems too hard, _____.
- If you care about the issue, _____.
- If you finish early, _____.

IV Read the following sentences from the text. Analyse the usage of 'could' and match the sentences with their functions given in the box below.

Past ability or purpose *Possibility*

Past possibility or speculation

Unreal or hypothetical situation

- It **could** be in any field—sports, science, arts, business or design.
- "I wish I **could** be this or the other," they have never got beyond just wishful thinking.
- They **could** have preferred to trade their dream for security.
- I know too, of people who had wished to finish secondary school but they had to go out to work so that they **could** support their siblings through school.



V Complete the following sentences using 'could' with the functions mentioned within brackets.

1. I wish _____ without worrying about money. (unreal or hypothetical)
2. They _____ the shorter route, but they didn't know about it. (past possibility or speculative)
3. When I was younger, I _____ without stopping. (past ability)
4. She _____ the library right now—she had mentioned it. (possibility)
5. _____ repeat the question? I didn't hear it clearly. (formal/polite request)

VI Fill in the blanks with suitable grammatical forms of the words given in brackets.

Experiential learning is an approach to education that focuses on learning through experience, action and reflection. It 1. _____ (help) students gain practical knowledge and develop real-world skills. Traditionally, students 2. _____ (learn) by listening to lectures and memorising facts, but experiential learning has changed this process.

In an experiential setting, students 3. _____ (work) on projects, solve problems, and take part in activities that reflect real-life challenges. They 4. _____ (apply) what they have learned in class to new and unfamiliar situations. For example, a student studying science 5. _____ (conduct) experiments to test a theory, while a business student 6. _____ (analyse) a case study to understand market trends.

Reflection is key to this process. After completing a task, learners 7. _____ (must/reflect) on what went well and what could be improved. This reflection 8. _____ (help) them build a deeper understanding of the topic.

Educators believe that experiential learning 9. _____ (be) more effective than passive learning methods because it is engaging and meaningful. In the future, more schools and universities 10. _____ (incorporate) experiential learning into their curriculum to prepare students for the real world.





Listen and Respond

I You will listen to an announcement regarding vocational courses starting in school. As you listen, fill in the blanks with one to three exact words that you hear. (Transcript for teacher on page 275)

1. Vocational courses will begin in the month of ____.
2. The objective of the courses is to prepare you with ____ for future studies and jobs.
3. Offered courses include Graphic Design, ____, Web Application, and Entrepreneurship Skills, etc.
4. Classes will be conducted by ____ at school.
5. The application forms will be available at the ____.
6. Choice of course will be given to ____ applicants.



Speaking Activity

I Work in groups of four. Each member of the group takes up one of the roles given below. Use the sentence prompts given under each role to present your role play.

1. The Dreamer (for example: wants to be a trekking guide)
 - I know this might sound challenging, but...
 - Ever since I was a child, I've dreamed of...
 - I understand it's not a usual path, but I believe...
 - It's an uphill journey, but I'm ready for it because...
2. A Parent (worried about financial stability)
 - I know you're passionate, but...
 - I only want what's best for you, and...
 - You can always pursue your dream later...
 - What if it doesn't...?



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3. A Mentor or Teacher (offers balanced advice)
 - Remember dreams need planning...
 - Let's look at the long-term view...
 - There are ways to combine your dream and...
 - Are you ready to...?
4. A Friend/Sibling (neutral or supportive voice)
 - You've always been good at... don't give up now.
 - I don't want to be a wet blanket, but what's your backup plan?
 - If anyone can do this, it's you, so...
 - If this dream makes you happy...



Writing Task

An email (electronic mail) is a method of composing, sending, storing, and receiving messages over an electronic communication system.

- I You are passionate about pursuing a course in designing in future. You come across a summer workshop being conducted by a reputed design institute. Write an email to the Director of the institute enquiring the details of the workshop and expressing your interest in joining it.

Follow the guidelines given below to write the email.

- Use formal language
- Avoid use of abbreviations
- Include the following components:
 - Header consisting of—sender, receiver, date, and subject
 - The message—introduction, seeking permission, conclusion
 - Complementary close—Yours sincerely,
 - Name, (designation), and contact details of the sender



Format of an email:

From:	
To:	
Cc:	
Bcc:	
Subject:	
Message:	



Learning Beyond the Text

I Create a Vision Board for yourself.

A vision board is a visual representation of your goals, dreams, and inspirations. It helps you focus on what you want to achieve and stay motivated. Vision boards often include pictures, words, or symbols that reflect your hopes and intentions for the future.



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1. My Dreams—Think about what you wish for in the future. This could be becoming an artist, serving the Nation, or learning a new skill. Write or draw it in the ‘My dreams’ section.
 2. I Want to Try—List new things you want to experience this year. These might include trying out for a play, starting a journal, learning to ride a bicycle, etc.
 3. Goals—Think about specific things you want to achieve. Use this space to write goals like ‘Read 10 books this year’ or ‘Improve my writing’.
 4. Places I Will Go—These can be real or imaginary places you’d like to visit. Draw or paste pictures of cities, nature spots, or even dream destinations like the space or the ocean.
 5. Inspiration—Who or what inspires you? It could be a family member, teacher, a famous personality, or a quote that gives you strength.
- II Great personalities in history were inspired by their parents.



1. Chhatrapati Shivaji’s mother, Jijabai, instilled in him a strong sense of dharma, patriotism, and justice. She told him tales from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, which shaped his leadership ideals and bravery.
2. Queen Madālasa, wife of King Ritudhwaja, a revered figure from Indian scriptures, nurtured in her children a deep understanding of the soul and detachment from material desires. Her wisdom led her sons to seek spiritual liberation. Madalasa is a timeless example of a mother guiding her children on the path of enlightenment.

