

About the story: 'The Turning Point', is an edited extract from 'My Teachers' by DR A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM. The turning point means- An important change in the life of a person. This is the true story of Abdul Kalam that made a turning point in his life. When he was in class 5 std. One day his teacher Shri Siva Subramania Iyer taught him about a bird's flight in the class. When the teacher explained in the class about a bird's flight most of the students including Kalam had not understood the lesson. So the teacher took them all to the Seashore of Rameswaram(birthplace of Kalam)to teach them practically.

The teacher showed there how a bird flies. He asked to the students to look at the tail and the combination of flapping wings and twisting tail. The teacher explained how the birds changed direction, and position could fly in the direction they wanted to. After that all the students understood the lesson of a bird's flight.

For Kalam the lesson was not merely an understanding of how a bird flies. He decided that he wanted to study all he could about the concept of flight. So he took his teacher's advice about the further study of Science. He became a rocket engineer, an aerospace engineer and a technologist. But the memory of his teacher encouraging him to become a successful person was upto the end of Kalam's life.

Read to Understand:

A. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

'I said I had not understood....Many students said that they too had not understood.

Our teacher was really concerned about this, but he did not get upset by our response.'

1. Who said these lines?

Ans: The narrator said these lines.

2. What had the speaker and other students not understood?

Ans: The speaker and other students had not understood about a bird's flight.

3. What did the teacher do to help the students understand?

Ans: The teacher took all the students to the Seashore to show them practically.

B. Answer these questions briefly.

1. How did the teacher explain a bird's flight?

Ans: The teacher explained a bird's flight in theory as well as in practice.

2. What did the students observe on the seashore?

Ans: The students observed on the seashore that the birds in that position could fly in the direction they wanted to.

3. How do a bird's wings and tail help it fly?

Ans: The bird's wings flapped to generate lift and the combination of flapping wings and twisting tail help it fly.

4. What decision did Kalam make while standing on the seashore?

Ans: Kalam made decision to study all he could the concept of flight.

5. What subjects did Kalam study to attain his goal in life?

Ans: Kalam studied Science. He took up physics and then went on to study engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology to attain his goal in life.

Discuss and write

1. Write one incident each to show that Sri Siva Subramania Iyer showed the following qualities: patience and inspiration.

Ans: Patience-- When the students had not understood his explanation in the class, he did not get upset, he took all the students to the seashore to teach them practically.

Inspiration--- He inspired his students according to their wishes. He advised ignited the young minds by allowing them to ask questions and then answering till it achieve complete understanding.

2. Describe the incident that proved to be a turning point in the life of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Ans: The incident that proved to be a turning point in the life of Dr Kalam was the day on which his teacher took them to the seashore and he understood of a bird's flight with the practical examples.

One word, many meanings

B. Refer to a dictionary to find the different meanings of these words and use them in sentences to show the difference in their meanings.

Lift: 1. Lift your arm gently.

2. We went to the upstairs by lift.

Drag: 1. He took a long drag on his cigarette.

2. She drags her bag on the floor.

Drew: 1. She drew a nice picture.

2. He drew our attention to the seagulls flying in formation.

Grammar

A. Circle the noun forms that are correct.

Ans: 1. sunshine 2. childhood 3. rice 4. money 5. furniture 6. advice 7. sleep 8. motivation 9. hair 10. chaos 11. fun 12. homework.

B. Fill in the blanks by using suitable words from the help box for the Uncountable nouns.

1. I need two tubes of this toothpaste.

2. The igloo is made of several blocks of snow.

3. I had to buy two litres of oil to fry the snacks.

4. I need to buy several pieces of furniture for my house.

5. We found a few balls of wool in Grandma's cupboard.

6. You'll find many words of wisdom in this book of quotes.

C. Choose any five uncountable nouns to make sentences of your own.

furniture: We need some more furniture for our house.

sleep: She has a sound sleep.

sunshine: The Percentage of sunshine in the state is high.

advice: Obey your parents' advice.

hair: she has long and beautiful hair.

Pair work

Take turns to ask a question, and your partner will reply to it by forming a noun from the verb or adjective given in brackets.

Ans: 1. beauty

2. formation

3. flight

4. brightness

5. attention

6. discussion

Time to listen

Listen carefully to some information about Dr Abdul Kalam and tick(✓) the correct answers.

1. What was Dr Kalam's favourite pastime as a child?

Ans: b) reading books

2. When did he study engineering?

Ans: c) after completing a BSc

3. Which of the following are names of missiles developed by Dr Kalam?

Ans: b) Agni c) Aakash d) Prithvi

4. Which of the following are titles of the books authored by him?

Ans: b) Wings of Fire d) My Journey

5. Which of the following was awarded to him in 1997?

Ans: c) Bharat Ratna.

Time to speak

Think of a person who inspired you. Tell the class about the person. Remember to talk about what qualities inspire you and how you are inspired by them.

Ans: A role model does not have to be a famous person or a superhero. My role model is my mother. She has taught me to stay focus. She has a demonstration of confidence and leadership, communication with everyone, being unique, showing respect and concerns for others.

She is very kind to others. I really admire her selfishness style and willingness to admit mistakes and maintaining the same characters inside and outside the job.

She is a teacher and very punctual in her work. I respect her for her hard work and caring of others.

Time to write

Writing message

Q. Now complete this message in not more than 50 words.

Ans:

MESSAGE

14.5.2020- 11.00 A.M (date and time)

Abdul (name of the recipient)

Srinivas called you, my son Abdul. He requested me to inform you that they would be going to the Air Force Museum the next day. You could meet them at the Nungambakkam bus stop at 11 am. His parents and he would pick you up from there. After that they would have a picnic on the beach. You could take your binoculars. His parents would drop you home after the picnic.

Father



