



Level 2

# Ira is inspired: The Missile Man of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

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Ira was on a mission today, *motivated*<sup>1</sup> by her Science teacher Mrs Singh and also their Principal Arun Sir. And especially by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Yes, just today, at school the children had seen a short film on India's 11th President. And Ira was most *inspired*<sup>2</sup>...





"Put on your thinking caps<sup>3</sup> children, be creative just like Dr. APJ! Come up with your own science project ideas this time, " Mrs Singh had said.

"Children at just ten years of age, Dr Kalam sold newspapers to help his family. How do you help at home? Each of you should have some daily *chores*<sup>4</sup>," their Principal Arun Sir, also had *enthused*<sup>5</sup> the children. "If not, you should start today..."



And Ira decided to start with dusting the furniture. She'd done this before too. And she also wanted to surprise, her mother! She started with her mother's favourite bookcase. And low and behold, she was the one surprised to discover a book with Dr. Kalam's picture on it. It was titled, 'Wings of Fire'.

"How could someone have wings of fire? What a funny name!" she exclaimed aloud.





"It's Dr. Kalam's *autobiography*<sup>6</sup> dear." It was her mother. She kneeled beside Ira.  
"There is a lot you can learn from this book. Hard-work and Big-Dreams get you 'wings of fire'!  
You should read this book...  
Dr Kalam came from a poor family, yet he reached the top. Do you know, Dr. Kalam was not only our President but is also known as the Missile Man of India?"



"Yes, yes Ma, I learned that in school. Our President worked on India's missile projects. They were called 'Prithvi' meaning earth and 'Agni' meaning fire. What funny names again!" She giggled "Ma can I take this book to school? I want to share it with my teacher and friends." Her mother nodded.





"You know Ira, just like you Dr. Kalam liked Science. And he was also a dreamer, again just like you !" Ira beamed at that.

"Yes Ma, Dr. Kalam was a scientist at DRDO and ISRO. You know DRDO stands for Defence Research and Development Organisation. And ISRO is Indian Space Research Organisation"



"Yes Dr. Kalam was a great scientist. In fact, even a faraway country like Switzerland celebrates Science Day on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Kalam visited Switzerland on that date. He was a kind and loving teacher too. And we celebrate his birthday as Student's Day in India," her mother added. "And and... Ma, do you know Dr. Kalam was poet too, JUST LIKE YOU!" Ira exclaimed clapping.





"Yes Beta," Her mother smiled. "He loved books and words. He did not take any gifts from anyone except for books.

Do you know what he said about END? He said that *E.N.D.*<sup>7</sup> means - Effort Never Dies!" So, THE END just takes us to new beginnings," her mother said with a smile.

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ASLV



PSLV-XL



GSLV MK II



GSLV MK III

"Wow Ma that's awesome. And you know I am so happy today because I am going to FAIL!!! She laughed. Yes, I am going to make a model of a rocket for my science project and F.A.I.L. Ma, *F.A.I.L.*<sup>8</sup> stands for FIRST ATTEMPT IN LEARNING! That's what Dr. Abdul Kalam said too. Isn't that awesome!"



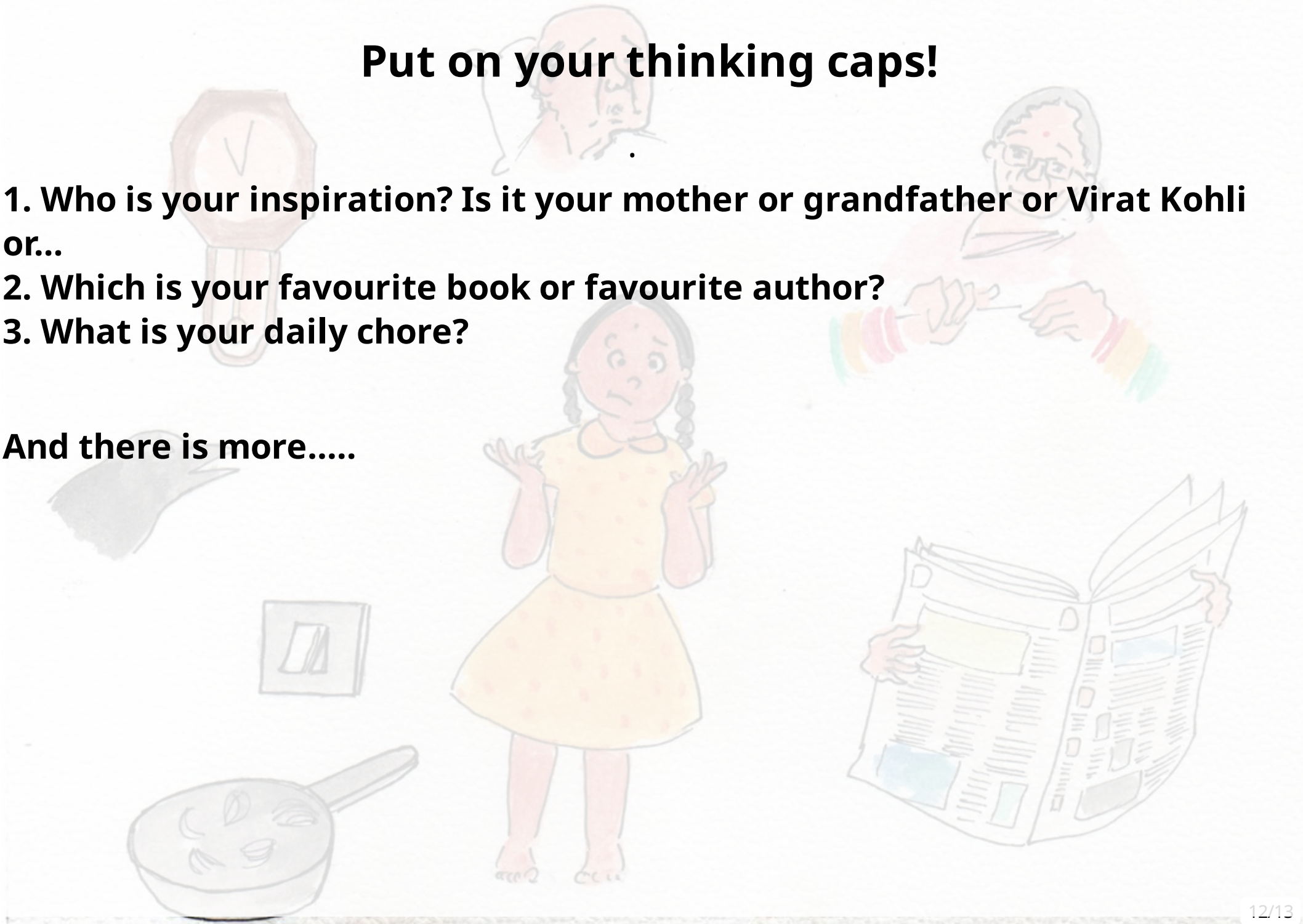


"And and... Ma next time when you say NO to me, I am not going to get angry N.O.<sup>9</sup> just means Next Opportunity, that's what he said also. And when you will say NO to ice-cream I will just wait for the next opportunity!" Ira clapped her hands cheekily.

# Put on your thinking caps!

1. Who is your inspiration? Is it your mother or grandfather or Virat Kohli or...
2. Which is your favourite book or favourite author?
3. What is your daily chore?

And there is more.....





# All good things come in threes

3 new words/phrases:

- Chores
- Autobiography
- Put one's thinking caps on

3 words having same meanings:

- Motivated
- Inspired
- Enthused

3 inspirations

- E.N.D.            Effort Never Dies
- F.A.I.L.        FIRST ATTEMPT IN LEARNING
- N.O.            Next Opportunity



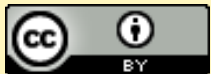
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# Ira is inspired: The Missile Man of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (English)

Ira is inspired by Dr. Kalam, a scientist, a poet and also a teacher.  
Let's also some new words, phrases and quotes too. Learn new  
words, phrases and quotes

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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