

8

Follow that Dream

Summary

The lesson “Follow That Dream” is written as a heartfelt letter from a mother to her daughter, Ming. The mother encourages her daughter to pursue her dreams with dedication and determination. She explains that great people become successful because they follow their dreams with hard work, sacrifice, and perseverance. Achieving excellence in any field requires intense effort for many years.

She advises that a dream begins with passion, followed by strong conviction. One must be ready to invest time, money, and effort, and face challenges along the way. The journey may be difficult, but the love for one’s work and the hope of success keep a person motivated. She also highlights the importance of support from others, as no one succeeds alone.

At the same time, the mother reminds her daughter that not everyone can fulfil their dreams due to circumstances like financial problems or unexpected events. Some people choose security over dreams, while others are forced to change their goals due to life situations. Therefore, she advises Ming to carefully consider the time and effort required.

Finally, the mother shares that dreams can change over time. Even she developed a new dream later in life and worked hard to achieve it. She encourages her daughter to follow her dreams with determination, even if they evolve with time.

- **Message:** Follow your dreams with passion, hard work, and patience, but be practical and adaptable, as life may change your path. True success comes from perseverance and the courage to keep striving despite challenges.

New Terms

- **Spectators** – People who watch an event
- **Resolved** – Determined and firm in decision
- **Poised** – Ready and prepared
- **Stumbled** – Tripped or lost balance
- **Staggered** – Walked unsteadily
- **Anguish** – Great pain or suffering
- **Dashed** – Destroyed or broken suddenly
- **Pulled up** – Stopped suddenly
- **Ovations** – Great applause or cheering
- **Beaming** – Smiling brightly

Reflect and Respond

I. Read the questions given below and share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. What is your dream?

Ans. My dream is to become a successful designer and create innovative and creative designs that inspire people.

2. Who inspires you to dream?

Ans. I am inspired by my parents, teachers, and successful personalities like A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, who believed in hard work and big dreams.

3. What qualities should you have in order to fulfil your dream?

Ans. To fulfil my dream, I should have:

- Hard work and dedication
- Patience and perseverance
- Confidence and self-belief
- Creativity and passion
- Willingness to learn and improve

4. Abdul Kalam said, “Dream is not that you see in sleep, dream is something that does not let you sleep.” Discuss.

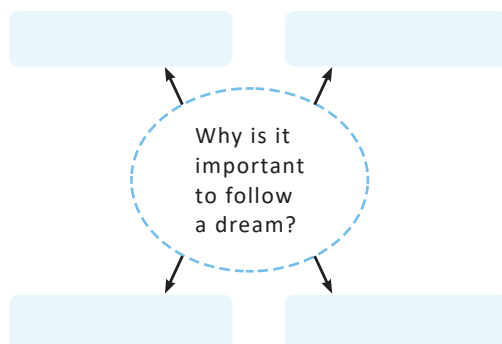
Ans. This statement means that real dreams are not just things we imagine while sleeping, but strong goals that keep us awake and motivated. Such dreams create a passion within us and push us to work hard continuously until we achieve them.

II. What role can parents and community play to help children achieve their dreams?

Ans. Parents and the community play an important role in helping children achieve their dreams by:

- Encouraging and motivating them
- Providing proper education and resources
- Guiding them in the right direction
- Supporting them emotionally during failures
- Creating a positive and safe environment for growth

III. Complete the given web chart. Give as many reasons as you can.



Ans.

- Gives purpose and direction in life
- Motivates us to work hard
- Builds confidence and self-belief
- Helps us discover our talents
- Leads to personal satisfaction and happiness
- Encourages growth and learning

Check Your Understanding

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

Critical Reflection

- I. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.
- 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.
 - Complete the analogy with a suitable word from the extract.
 - enthusiasm: passion:: belief: _____

Ans. enthusiasm : passion :: belief : conviction
 - 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

Ans. B. an early abandonment of the dream
 - 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.

Ans. The word 'plunge' as used in the extract indicates a complete involvement in a task.
 - 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 _____.

Ans. The author's emphasis works as intrinsic motivation because it gives inner satisfaction and happiness, which keeps a person motivated even without external rewards.
 - Mention one motivating factor besides 'prospect of success', that might keep a person on track, despite running out of stamina.

Ans. One motivating factor: love for the work / passion for the field

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)

Ans. The phrase 'life itself may change a person's dreams' suggests that dreams are not static but rather evolving.

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

Ans. The author means that even if dreams change with time, they are equally important and meaningful as the dreams we had in our youth.

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

Ans. "a maze of hurdles"

(iv) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

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

Ans. The author says this because achieving dreams often requires support, guidance, and involvement of many people such as family, teachers, and mentors.

(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

Ans. C. optimistic and encouraging

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?

Ans. Ming must have written to her mother about her dream or ambition for the future, possibly expressing her desire to pursue a particular career or passion. She may also have shared her confusion, doubts, or need for guidance about whether she should follow that dream, which prompted her mother to encourage her.

2. How can one attain an international level of skill in any field? Mention any two ways.

Ans. One can attain international-level skill by:

- Practising consistently for many years
- Working with dedication and focused effort

3. What differentiates the mere dreamers from actual achievers?

Ans. Mere dreamers only think and wish about achieving their goals, but they do not take any real steps to fulfil them. In contrast, actual achievers are distinguished by their hard work, commitment, determination, and willingness to make sacrifices. They actively pursue their dreams and continue to persevere despite difficulties, which enables them to turn their dreams into reality.

4. How does Ming's mother use critical questions and personal anecdotes to persuade Ming and convey her message effectively?

Ans. Ming's mother uses thought-provoking questions to make Ming reflect deeply and personal examples to make her advice realistic and relatable, thus making her message more convincing.

5. How does Ming's mother balance encouragement with caution in her advice?

Ans. She balances encouragement with caution by motivating Ming to follow her dreams while also reminding her to consider the effort, time, and sacrifices required.

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?

Ans. Yes, this advice is still relevant because even today people face challenges like competition, financial issues, and changing circumstances, so determination and careful planning are essential.

7. What 'costs' in terms of effort, sacrifice, and time are you willing or unwilling to invest to pursue your goals?

Ans. I am willing to invest time, hard work, and continuous effort, but I would try to maintain a balance so that I do not neglect my health and relationships.

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

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.

Ans.

• **Meanings:**

- **Mindscape** – the landscape of the mind; thoughts and imagination
- **Seascape** – a view of the sea
- **Landscape** – a view of natural scenery (land, hills, fields, etc.)
- **Cityscape** – a view of a city

• **Dialogue Answers:**

Sneha : Your Goa pictures were beautiful! That (i) seascape was dreamy.

Kiran : Thanks! It was way better than our usual (ii) cityscape so peaceful.

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

Kiran : True, but I'm craving a quiet (iii) landscape Forests, hills—something real.

Sneha : Yes, nature clears the (iv) mindscape 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

Ans. (ii) have a passionate desire

- **Sentence:** She had a dream to become a doctor that burned in her blood.

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

Ans. (i) a tough challenge

- **Sentence:** Completing the project alone was an uphill task.

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

Ans. (iv) lifted in spirit

- **Sentence:** The team was buoyed up after winning the match.

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

Ans. (iii) a hopeful belief but unlikely to be true

- **Sentence:** Thinking he would pass without studying was wishful thinking.

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

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

Ans. (iii) a hopeful belief but unlikely to be true

- **Sentence:** Thinking he would pass without studying was wishful thinking.

6. Excitement was coursing through her veins as she stepped onto the stage for the first time.

- (i) hiding deep inside
- (ii) flowing through her body
- (iii) lingering in her thoughts
- (iv) causing numbness

Ans. (ii) flowing through her body

- **Sentence:** Excitement was coursing through her veins before the performance.

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):
 1. If the idea excites you, _____.
 2. If you hear strange noises, _____.
 3. If this seems too hard, _____.
 4. If you care about the issue, _____.
 5. If you finish early, _____.

Ans.

1. If the idea excites you, go ahead and try it.
2. If you hear strange noises, call for help immediately.
3. If this seems too hard, take a break and try again later.
4. If you care about the issue, speak up and take action.
5. If you finish early, help others or revise your work.

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	

1. It could be in any field—sports, science, arts, business or design.
2. "I wish I could be this or the other," they have never got beyond just wishful thinking.
3. They could have preferred to trade their dream for security.
4. 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.

Ans.

1. It could be in any field — Possibility
2. I wish I could be this or the other — Unreal or hypothetical situation
3. They could have preferred — Past possibility or speculation
4. So that they could support — Past ability or purpose

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)

Ans.

1. I wish I could travel the world without worrying about money.
2. They could have taken the shorter route, but they didn't know about it.
3. When I was younger, I could run fast without stopping.
4. She could be in the library right now.
5. Could you repeat the question?

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.

Ans. Here are the answers with numbers:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| 1. helps | 2. learned | 3. work | 4. apply | 5. conducts |
| 6. analyses | 7. must reflect | 8. helps | 9. is | 10. will incorporate |

Completed paragraph (for clarity):

- Experiential learning is an approach to education that focuses on learning through experience, action and reflection. It 1. helps students gain practical knowledge and develop real-world skills. Traditionally, students 2. learned 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. conducts experiments to test a theory, while a business student 6. analyses 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. helps them build a deeper understanding of the topic.
- Educators believe that experiential learning 9. is more effective than passive learning methods because it is engaging and meaningful. In the future, more schools and universities 10. will 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)

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

Ans. Here are the correct answers based on the given announcement:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. academic year | 2. practical skills | 3. Basic Coding |
| 4. trained professionals | 5. school office | 6. early 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...?

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...

Ans.

1. **The Dreamer:** I know this might sound challenging, but I want to become a trekking guide. Ever since I was a child, I've dreamed of exploring mountains and helping others experience nature. I understand it's not a usual path, but I believe I can make a career out of it. It's an uphill journey, but I'm ready for it because it truly makes me happy.

2. **Parent:** I know you're passionate, but I am worried about your future. I only want what's best for you, and I think you should choose something more stable. You can always pursue your dream later as a hobby. What if it doesn't work out?

3. **Mentor/Teacher:** Remember, dreams need planning and careful thought. Let's look at the long-term view—what skills and training will you need? There are ways to combine your dream and financial stability, perhaps by studying tourism or adventure management. Are you ready to work hard and stay committed?

4. **Friend/Sibling:** You've always been good at outdoor activities, so 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 believe in yourself. If this dream makes you happy, you should definitely try for it.

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:	

Ans. Here is a well-structured formal email based on the given guidelines:

Enquiry Regarding Summer Design Workshop

From: riya.sharma@email.com

To: director@designinstitute.org

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: 14 June 2026

Subject: Enquiry Regarding Summer Design Workshop

Message:

Respected Sir/Madam,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Riya Sharma, and I am a student of Class IX with a keen interest in pursuing a career in designing. I recently came across information about the summer workshop being conducted by your esteemed institute, and I am very eager to learn more about it.

I would be grateful if you could kindly provide me with details regarding the duration of the workshop, eligibility criteria, course content, registration process, and fee structure. I am highly interested in joining the programme and would appreciate any additional information that would help me prepare for it.

I look forward to your response and hope to be a part of this enriching learning experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Riya Sharma

(Student)

Contact No.: 9876543210

Email: riya.sharma@email.com