



**CLASS X**  
**ENGLISH COURSE BOOK**  
**UNIT IV – PERSONALITIES**  
**LESSON 10**  
**MY CHILDHOOD**

**NOTES**

1. *My Childhood* is an extract from **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's** autobiography *Wings of Fire*.
2. Abdul Kalam was born into a Tamil family in the island town of Rameswaram. He had three brothers and a sister.
3. His parents were Jainulabdeen and Ashiamma.
4. When he was eight years old, he read the newspaper, Dinamani to trace stories of the Second World War.
5. He earned his first wages as a child during the Second World War.
6. He inherited honesty, self-discipline, faith in goodness and deep kindness from his parents.
7. Abdul had three close childhood friends who were all from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families.
8. As bed time stories, he heard events from the Ramayana and from the life of the Prophet. He also took part in Hindu religious ceremonies.
9. He asked for permission from his father to study at the district headquarters in Ramanathapuram.
10. When Abdul asked his father for permission to leave Rameswaram, his father quoted Khalil Gibran to his hesitant mother, “Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters.....”



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