Class 9 English Kaveri – Chapter 8

Follow That Dream & Believe in Yourself

NCERT / TEXTBOOK SOLUTIONS • 2026–27

Solutions are based on the uploaded Chapter 8 textbook. Subjective activities are given as model answers. Listening answers are not invented because the teacher transcripts referenced in the textbook are not included in the uploaded chapter.

1. Reflect and Respond – Follow That Dream

1. What is your dream?
Model answer: My dream is to become a successful professional in a field that interests me and use my knowledge and skills in a meaningful way.

2. Who inspires you to dream?
Model answer: My parents, teachers and people who have worked hard to achieve meaningful goals inspire me to dream and work towards my aspirations.

3. What qualities should you have in order to fulfil your dream?
Determination, discipline, patience, hard work, self-belief, willingness to learn, resilience and the ability to accept guidance are important qualities.

4. Discuss Abdul Kalam's statement about dreams.
The statement suggests that a real dream is more than something seen during sleep. It is an aspiration that strongly motivates a person to act, learn and work towards a meaningful goal.

5. What role can parents and community play in helping children achieve their dreams?
Parents and the community can provide encouragement, guidance, opportunities, emotional support and practical help. They can also help children understand challenges and make realistic plans.

2. Check Your Understanding – Follow That Dream

1. Reaching the peak of skill in a field typically demands focused and intense dedication for about a decade. — True or False?
True.

2. Significant effort and personal sacrifices are essential for turning aspirations into reality. — True or False?
True.

3. The path to achieving deep desires has very little difficulty or few obstacles. — True or False?
False.

4. A person's life goals and hopes can evolve over time. — True or False?
True.

5. Having a strong network of individuals can be a hurdle in pursuing an ambition. — True or False?
False. The text presents a support network as something that can stand by and support an achiever.

6. Pursuing a major life goal will not involve financial expense or sacrifice. — True or False?
False.

7. Many aspirations remain wishes because people do not move beyond mere wishful thinking. — True or False?
True.

3. Critical Reflection – Follow That Dream

Extract 1(i). enthusiasm : passion :: belief : _____
conviction.

Extract 1(ii). Realistic assessment prevents what?
B. an early abandonment of the dream.

Extract 1(iii). 'Plunge' indicates _____ involvement.
complete.

Extract 1(iv). Why is doing what you love intrinsic motivation?
Because the satisfaction comes from the activity itself and from the feeling that one is doing meaningful work, rather than depending only on an external reward.

Extract 1(v). Mention one motivating factor besides the prospect of success.
The knowledge that one is doing what one loves best and is doing the right thing.

Extract 2(i). Dreams are not static but rather _____.
evolving.

Extract 2(ii). Meaning of 'hopes and aspirations are no less than the original dream'.
New hopes that arise later in life can be equally meaningful and valuable as the dreams a person had when younger.

Extract 2(iii). Phrase indicating a complex and challenging journey.
'a maze of hurdles'

Extract 2(iv). Why may there be more participants in the dreamscape?
Because a changed or later-life dream may involve more family members, colleagues, mentors, friends and other people who support, influence or participate in the journey.

Extract 2(v). Tone of the extract.
C. optimistic and encouraging.

1. What do you think Ming must have written to her mother about?
She most likely wrote about a personal dream or ambition that she wanted to pursue.

2. How can one attain an international level of skill in any field? Mention any two ways.
By pursuing the chosen field with focused and intensive dedication for a long period, and by being prepared to invest sustained effort, time, financial resources and sacrifice.

3. What differentiates mere dreamers from actual achievers?
Achievers move beyond wishful thinking and take sustained action. They commit themselves to their goals, accept the required effort and sacrifice, and continue despite obstacles.

4. How does Ming's mother use critical questions and personal anecdotes effectively?
She asks Ming to consider the practical costs of pursuing a dream and supports her advice with examples of people whose dreams changed because of circumstances, as well as her own experience of publishing the book. This makes the advice both realistic and encouraging.

5. How does Ming's mother balance encouragement with caution?
She begins by encouraging Ming to follow her dream, but asks her to consider time, effort, money, sacrifice and obstacles before making the commitment.

6. Is the advice still relevant today?
Yes. Pursuing goals still requires realistic planning, sustained effort and the ability to respond to changing circumstances. Support from family, teachers and mentors can also be valuable.

7. What costs might you be willing or unwilling to invest in pursuing your goals?
Model answer: I would be willing to invest regular practice, time, learning and reasonable financial resources. I would first consider whether the sacrifices required are practical and responsible for my circumstances.

4. Vocabulary and Structures in Context

I. Meanings of compound words: mindscape, seascape, landscape, cityscape.
Mindscape – a person's mental or emotional world; Seascape – a view or scene of the sea; Landscape – a view or scene of land/nature; Cityscape – a view or scene of a city.

II(1). 'burn in her blood'
Meaning: have a passionate desire. Model sentence: She had a dream that burned in her blood, so she continued working towards it.

II(2). 'uphill task'
Meaning: a tough challenge. Model sentence: Completing the project in one day was an uphill task.

II(3). 'buoyed up'
Meaning: lifted in spirit. Model sentence: The encouraging feedback buoyed her up.

II(4). 'wishful thinking'
Meaning: a hopeful belief that is unlikely to be true without sufficient basis. Model sentence: Expecting to pass without studying was wishful thinking.

II(5). 'wet blanket'
Meaning: spoil-sport. Model sentence: Do not be a wet blanket when everyone is enjoying the celebration.

II(6). 'coursing through her veins'
Meaning: flowing through her body; figuratively, an intense feeling. Model sentence: Excitement was coursing through her veins before the performance.

5. Grammar – First Conditional and Imperatives

III(1). If the idea excites you, _____.
go ahead and explore it.

III(2). If you hear strange noises, _____.
check the source carefully.

III(3). If this seems too hard, _____.
take one small step at a time.

III(4). If you care about the issue, _____.
do something to help.

III(5). If you finish early, _____.
review your work.

6. Grammar – Functions of ‘Could’

IV(1). It could be in any field…
Possibility.

IV(2). I wish I could be this or the other…
Unreal or hypothetical situation.

IV(3). They could have preferred to trade their dream for security.
Past possibility or speculation.

IV(4). …so that they could support their siblings through school.
Past ability or purpose.

7. Grammar – Complete with ‘Could’

V(1). I wish _____ without worrying about money.
I could travel freely.

V(2). They _____ the shorter route, but they did not know about it.
could have taken.

V(3). When I was younger, I _____ without stopping.
could run for several kilometres.

V(4). She _____ the library right now—she had mentioned it.
could be at.

V(5). _____ repeat the question?
Could you.

8. Grammar – Experiential Learning

VI(1–10). Complete the paragraph.
1. helps 2. learned 3. work 4. apply 5. conducts 6. analyses 7. must reflect 8. helps 9. is 10. will incorporate.

9. Listening and Speaking – Follow That Dream

Listening Activity – Vocational Courses

The textbook directs students to listen to a teacher transcript on page 275. That transcript is not included in the uploaded 28-page Chapter 8 file, so the six exact-word listening answers cannot be verified from the available source. They should be completed from the teacher's transcript rather than guessed.

Speaking Activity – Model role-play

Dreamer: "I know this might sound challenging, but this is something I have wanted to pursue for years." Parent: "I know you are passionate, but we should also consider financial stability." Mentor: "Let us look at the long-term plan and see how the dream can be pursued responsibly." Friend: "You have worked hard for this. Do not give up, but keep a practical backup plan."

10. Writing – Formal Email

Task: Email to the Director of a reputed design institute enquiring about a summer workshop.

From: student@example.com
To: director@designinstitute.org
Date: 27 September 2026
Subject: Enquiry About Summer Design Workshop

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am a student of Class 9 and I am interested in pursuing design in the future. I recently learned about the summer design workshop conducted by your reputed institute. I would like to know the dates, duration, eligibility criteria, fee structure, course content and registration procedure for the workshop.

I would be grateful if you could provide the required details and inform me whether a Class 9 student is eligible to participate. I am keen to join the workshop and develop my understanding of design.

Yours sincerely,
Aarav Sharma
Class 9
Contact: 98XXXXXX00

11. Learning Beyond – Vision Board

Vision Board – Model content

My Dreams: Become skilled in a field I enjoy; I Want to Try: Learn a new creative skill; Goals: Improve communication, read regularly and complete my studies on time; Places I Will Go: Historical places, mountains and a dream destination; Inspiration: Parents, teachers and people who overcome difficulties through perseverance.

Great personalities and parental inspiration

The textbook gives examples of Jijabai's influence on Chhatrapati Shivaji and Queen Madālasa's guidance of her sons. The activity can be extended by researching another documented example of a parent or mentor inspiring a child.

12. Reflect and Respond – Step up to the challenge

I(1). What emotions might you feel at the base of a difficult task?

Model answer: I might feel nervous, uncertain or afraid of failure, but I would also feel hopeful and determined to begin.

I(2). What might make you take the first step?

A clear goal, self-belief, encouragement from others, preparation and the desire to improve could motivate me to begin.

II(1). Think about a challenge you faced. What was it and how did you feel at the start?

Model answer: I once had to give a presentation before a class. At first I felt nervous because I was worried about making mistakes.

II(2). How did you feel after deciding to move forward?

I felt more confident after preparing and taking the first step. The experience showed me that preparation can reduce fear.

III. What does 'believe in yourself' mean to you?

It means trusting your ability to learn and improve, accepting mistakes as part of learning and continuing to work towards a goal.

IV. Meaning of 'status quo' in the given sentence.

2. A situation to keep things the same.

13. Check Your Understanding – Step up to the challenge

Stanza 1 – correct central idea.

(i) Facing challenges requires personal responsibility and a clear focus on one's future.

Stanza 2 – correct central idea.
(i) Fear and uncertainty make it difficult to make choices as the future approaches.

Stanza 3 – correct central idea.
(ii) Personal growth requires leaving behind comfort and embracing change.

Stanza 4 – correct central idea.
(ii) The first step towards change is difficult, but having self-belief and confidence helps you stay on track.

Rhyme scheme.
The poem uses a simple, effective alternating rhyme pattern across the stanzas (ABCB).

Tone statement 1.
True.

Tone statement 2.
True.

14. Speaker, Imagery and Symbolism

IV. Speaker – complete the sentences.
The speaker is a guide who encourages the reader to take control of his/her own future. The use of 'You' makes the speaker seem as though he/she is talking directly to the reader.

V. Imagery – match the phrases.
1 → (ii): 'There is no crowd to see' suggests a solitary journey and individual effort. 2 → (iii): 'push you back in fear' evokes the mental barrier that prevents growth.

VI(1). Comfort and status quo represent _____ and fear of change.
stagnation.

VI(2). The future symbolises the _____, but requires _____ to step into.
unknown; courage.

VI(3). The first step symbolises the initial _____ required to begin the journey of _____.
leap of faith; self-improvement.

VII. Why is 'The first step is the hardest' metaphorical?
The 'first step' does not refer only to a physical step. It represents the difficult beginning of a new challenge, change or personal-development journey.

VIII. Identify antithesis in the poem and explain.
'Will it pull you forward / Or push you back in fear?' contrasts moving forward with being pushed back by fear. The contrast highlights the choice between facing the future and allowing fear to hold one back. The poem also contrasts comfort/status quo with growth.

15. Critical Reflection – Step up to the challenge

1(i). What does 'There is no crowd to see' suggest?
Facing a challenge is primarily an individual experience and requires personal responsibility.

1(ii). 'It's just you and the future' suggests that _____.
the individual must take responsibility for choosing and working towards the future they want.

1(iii). Latha will _____ her efforts.
continue / step up to the challenge. (The exercise asks for a word or phrase from the extract; 'step up' is the intended expression.)

1(iv). Most suitable title.
C. A Journey of Growth.

1(v). achieve : goal :: face : _____.
challenge.

2. Significance of 'The first step is the hardest'.
Beginning a new journey can be difficult because it involves uncertainty and fear. Taking the first step requires courage and self-belief.

3. What message does the antithesis convey?
The contrast shows that comfort and fear can hold a person back, whereas change and effort are connected with growth.

4. Is the poet's message realistic?
Self-belief can motivate a person, but it is not necessarily sufficient by itself. Planning, skills, resources, guidance, opportunities and support may also be needed to overcome real-world obstacles.

5. Apply the message to a difficult first step.
Model answer: If a student is afraid to speak publicly, self-belief can encourage the student to volunteer for a small presentation, practise carefully and gradually become more confident.

16. Vocabulary – Latin Expressions

I(i). I enjoy reading fantasy books, _____ Harry Potter and Magical Paint Brush.
e.g.

I(ii). After helping Tanya with the homework, Ritu asked for a _____ to borrow her notes next time.
quid pro quo.

I(iii). I love all kinds of outdoor activities, such as trekking, hiking, biking, _____.
etc.

I(iv). The park is not very special _____; it becomes more fun when you visit with friends.
per se.

I(v). We created an _____ team to organise the school festival.
ad hoc.

I(vi). The movie started _____, with the hero already fighting the villain.
in media res.

17. Rhetorical Questions

1(i). 'Isn't it obvious that we must act now? Don't we all have a responsibility to make a change?'
The questions encourage immediate action and make readers reflect on their responsibility to bring about change.

1(ii). 'Will we let fear control us, or will we rise above it?'
It encourages the reader to consider whether fear will prevent action or whether courage will lead to action.

2(i). Stand up for what is right.
F. How can we stay silent when we know what is right?

2(ii). Own up to a mistake in a group project.
B. Isn't it better to admit our mistakes than to let them define us?

2(iii). Try something challenging such as public speaking.
A. How can we ever grow if we never try anything new?

2(iv). Choose between two career paths.
D. Can I really move forward without knowing which path to take?

2(v). Apologise for a mistake.
C. If I don't take responsibility now, when will I?

2(vi). Try something new and leave the comfort zone.
E. What's the point of playing it safe if it means staying stuck?

18. Listening and Speaking – Believe in Yourself

Listening Activity

The textbook refers to a teacher transcript on page 275 for the conversation between two friends. That transcript is not part of the uploaded 28-page chapter, so the three exact-word answers and the four true statements cannot be reliably completed from the available source.

Speaking Activity – Proverbs

1. Don’t judge a book by its cover: appearances do not always reveal a person’s true nature. 2. Actions speak louder than words: actual behaviour can demonstrate commitment more clearly than promises. 3. When the going gets tough, the tough get going: difficult circumstances can require determination and perseverance.

19. Writing – Speech: Turning Challenges into Opportunities

Model Speech

Good morning respected Principal, teachers and my dear friends.

Have you ever noticed that some of the most valuable lessons begin with a difficult situation? Today I would like to speak about turning challenges into opportunities. Challenges can make us uncomfortable, but they can also teach us skills, patience and determination.

First, challenges can become learning experiences. When we face a difficult task, we learn to plan, practise, solve problems and seek help when necessary. A student who struggles with a subject, for example, can use the difficulty as a reason to improve study habits and seek guidance.

Second, change can open new possibilities. A new responsibility, unfamiliar activity or unexpected obstacle may help us discover abilities that we did not know we had. Instead of allowing fear to stop us, we can take one practical step at a time. Preparation, self-belief, support and persistence can make change easier to handle.

Therefore, let us not see every challenge only as a barrier. Let us ask what we can learn from it and what new opportunity it may create. Challenges can strengthen our skills, determination and confidence. Thank you.

20. Learning Beyond the Text – Model Notes

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

The textbook presents Ambedkar as a person who faced discrimination and hardship but continued his education and later became a jurist, economist and social reformer and Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India.

Lal Bahadur Shastri

The textbook describes his childhood hardships, commitment to education, participation in the freedom movement and later service to independent India as Prime Minister.

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

The textbook describes his family’s financial difficulties, his newspaper-delivery work to help with school expenses, and the lessons of hard work, perseverance and responsibility that he gained from the experience.

21. Final Revision – Chapter 8

Prose: Follow That Dream

Key ideas: passion, conviction, effort, sacrifice, realistic assessment, support networks, changing dreams and perseverance.

Poem: Step up to the challenge

Key ideas: personal responsibility, fear and choice, leaving the comfort zone, growth, the difficult first step and self-belief.

Poem: Always Believe in Yourself

Key ideas: self-belief, courage, persistence, encouragement, openness and positive possibilities.

Important language

First conditional with imperative; functions of ‘could’; compound words with -scape; status quo; Latin expressions; rhetorical questions; metaphor and antithesis.

Important source limitation: the uploaded Chapter 8 textbook ends at page 258 and references teacher transcripts on page 275, which are not included in the uploaded file. Listening answers have therefore been left unguessed.