Class 9 English Kaveri – Chapter 8

Follow That Dream & Believe in Yourself

VOCABULARY & WORD MEANINGS • 2026–27

Important vocabulary and expressions drawn from the uploaded Chapter 8 textbook, with student-friendly meanings.

A. Key Words from ‘Follow That Dream’

Word / Expression	Meaning
insight	clear and deep understanding
singularly	exclusively
imperative	necessary
plunge	throw oneself into the activity
buoyed up	kept afloat
wistfully	longingly
dreamscape	a world of dreams

B. Important Expressions

Word / Expression	Meaning
burning in your blood	having a passionate desire
uphill task / uphill journey	a tough or difficult challenge
buoyed up	encouraged or lifted in spirit; the textbook glosses it as ‘kept afloat’
wishful thinking	a hopeful belief but unlikely to be true
wet blanket	spoil-sport
coursing through your veins	flowing through your body; used figuratively for an intense feeling
a maze of hurdles	a complicated path containing many difficulties or obstacles

C. Compound Words with –scape

Word / Expression	Meaning
dreamscape	a world of dreams
mindscape	a mental or inner landscape; the textbook asks students to consult a dictionary
seascape	a view or scene of the sea
landscape	a view or scene of land or nature
cityscape	a view or scene of a city

D. ‘Step up to the challenge’ – Key Vocabulary

Word / Expression	Meaning
status quo	the existing state of affairs; the current situation or condition, especially when unchanged
comfort zone	the familiar and comfortable situation that can hold a person back from change
stamina	the ability to continue an activity without becoming exhausted
challenge	a difficult task or situation that requires effort
personal development	the process of improving oneself through learning, effort and experience
antithesis	a rhetorical device that places contrasting or opposite ideas in parallel structure
metaphor	a comparison in which one thing is described as another to convey an idea
rhetorical question	a question asked to make the reader think or reflect rather than to obtain an answer

E. Latin Expressions in the Chapter

Word / Expression	Meaning
et cetera (etc.)	and other things; and so on
exempli gratia (e.g.)	for example
ad hoc	for a specific purpose or situation, often temporary
in media res	into the middle of things; starting at a crucial point of a story or situation
per se	by itself; fundamentally
quid pro quo	a favour or advantage given in return for something

F. Useful Poetic / Contextual Words

Word / Expression	Meaning
future	the time or events that are yet to come
status quo	the existing state of affairs
comfort	a state of ease or freedom from difficulty
persist	continue firmly despite difficulty
endurance	the ability to continue despite difficulty or fatigue
courage	the ability to face difficulty, fear or uncertainty
self-belief	confidence in one's own ability or worth
encouragement	support or words that give someone confidence
aspiration	a strong hope or ambition to achieve something
dream	an aspiration or desired goal that one wants to pursue

G. ‘Always Believe in Yourself’ – Important Words

Word / Expression	Meaning
intelligence	the ability to learn, understand and use knowledge
ability	the power or skill to do something

Word / Expression	Meaning
attain	achieve or reach something
endurance	the capacity to continue through difficulty
persist	continue firmly without giving up
courage	the strength to face fear or difficulty
surround	be all around someone or something
gifts of life	the positive opportunities, experiences and possibilities life offers

Quick Revision List

- insight – clear and deep understanding
- imperative – necessary
- plunge – throw oneself into an activity
- wistfully – longingly
- dreamscape – a world of dreams
- uphill task – a tough challenge
- wishful thinking – a hopeful belief unlikely to be true
- wet blanket – spoil-sport
- status quo – existing state of affairs
- quid pro quo – favour or advantage given in return for something

Source note: The meanings in Sections A, B and E follow the definitions/glosses provided in the uploaded textbook. For the compound words requested through the textbook's dictionary activity, student-friendly dictionary-style meanings are provided. Listening vocabulary has not been added because the teacher transcript referenced by the textbook is not included in the uploaded file.