

- Verghese Kurien – I Too Had A Dream Summary
- Character Sketch of Verghese Kurien
- Themes in Verghese Kurien – I Too Had A Dream
- Literary Devices in Verghese Kurien – I Too Had A Dream

Verghese Kurien – I Too Had A Dream Summary

"I Too Had A Dream" is an autobiographical letter written by Verghese Kurien to his grandson Siddharth. In this letter, Kurien reflects on his life choices, his dedication to serving India's farmers, and the values that guided him. He shares his journey from a young man with many career options to someone who chose to work for the welfare of dairy farmers in Anand, Gujarat. Kurien emphasizes the importance of integrity, responsibility, and contributing to the common good. He encourages his grandson and future generations to work bravely and tirelessly for the betterment of the country and humanity.

Key Elements

- **Theme:** Service to the nation, integrity, responsibility, and the power of individual contribution.
- **Values:** Honesty, humility, dedication, and perseverance.
- **Context:** Post-independence India and the cooperative dairy movement.
- **Purpose:** To inspire younger generations to value service and hard work.

Important Quotes

- "Life is a privilege and to waste it would be wrong."

- "Failure is not about not succeeding. Rather, it is about not putting in your best effort and not contributing, however modestly, to the common good."
- "If we are brave enough to love, strong enough to rejoice in another's happiness and wise enough to know that there is enough to go around for all, then we would have lived our lives to the fullest."

Explanation of Key Lines

Kurien explains that writing a letter is more than instant communication; it is a lasting possession that can be treasured and re-read, providing deeper understanding over time. He stresses that choosing a life of service means giving up other personal ambitions but leads to meaningful contributions. The letter also highlights that happiness is not dependent on circumstances but on appreciating what one has.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is the author of "I Too Had A Dream"?
- What career options did Kurien have before choosing to work in Anand?
- What does Kurien say about failure?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain the significance of integrity in Kurien's life.
- How does Kurien describe the importance of writing letters?
- What role did Kurien's grandmother play in his life?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss how Kurien's letter reflects the values needed for nation-building.
- Analyze the quote: "If we are brave enough to love... then we would have lived our lives to the fullest."

- How does Kurien's life story inspire young people today?

Answer Key

- **Author:** Verghese Kurien.
- **Career options:** Metallurgy executive, Indian Army commission, or moving to the US as an NRI.
- **Failure:** Not about lack of success but about not putting in one's best effort and not contributing to the common good.
- **Integrity:** Being honest to oneself and others, a core value inherited from family and mentors.
- **Writing letters:** A lasting form of communication that conveys thoughts and can be treasured over time.
- **Grandmother's role:** She supported Kurien's choice to live and work in Anand, providing strength and encouragement.
- **Nation-building values:** Service, integrity, responsibility, humility, and dedication.
- **Quote analysis:** Emphasizes love, joy in others' happiness, and sharing resources as keys to a fulfilled life.
- **Inspiration:** Kurien's dedication shows how individual commitment can bring social change and improve lives.

Quick Reference

- **Author:** Verghese Kurien
- **Setting:** Post-independence India, Anand, Gujarat
- **Theme:** Service, integrity, responsibility
- **Values:** Honesty, humility, perseverance
- **Message:** Contribute to the common good and live a life of purpose

Glossary

- **Addicted:** Dependent on something
- **Fleeting:** Momentary or short-lived
- **Abiding pleasure:** A feeling of happiness that lasts a long time
- **Jottings:** Brief notes

- **Foremost:** Leading or most important
- **Humility:** Modesty; quality of being humble
- **Pursue:** To follow or strive for
- **Envisioned:** Imagined or expected something to happen in a particular way
- **Ardently:** With strong feelings or passion
- **Poise:** Calm and confident manner
- **Adhered:** Continued to support or follow
- **Integrity:** Honesty and strong moral principles
- **Correlation:** A connection between two or more things
- **Musings:** Thoughts or reflections on something

Character Sketch of Verghese Kurien

Verghese Kurien was a visionary and dedicated social entrepreneur known as the 'Father of the White Revolution' in India. He was humble, honest, and committed to serving the farmers of India. Despite having many career options, he chose to work for the welfare of dairy farmers in Anand, Gujarat. Kurien valued integrity and believed in contributing to the common good. He was supported by his family, especially his grandmother, and was recognized nationally for his contributions.

Key Traits

- **Integrity:** Always honest to himself and others.
- **Dedication:** Committed to improving farmers' lives.
- **Humility:** Modest about his achievements.
- **Visionary:** Saw the potential of cooperative dairy farming.
- **Resilient:** Faced challenges with poise and strength.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What career did Kurien initially consider?
- Who supported Kurien's decision to work in Anand?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe Kurien's attitude towards failure.
- How did Kurien's values influence his work?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain how Kurien's character contributed to the success of the White Revolution.
- Analyze the role of family support in Kurien's life and work.

Answer Key

- **Career considered:** Metallurgy executive, Indian Army, or NRI in the US.
- **Support:** His grandmother supported his choice to live and work in Anand.
- **Attitude to failure:** Failure is not lack of success but not putting in best effort.
- **Values influence:** Integrity and dedication guided his honest and effective work.
- **Character and success:** His vision, honesty, and perseverance helped build the cooperative dairy movement.
- **Family support:** Provided strength and encouragement, enabling him to face challenges.

Quick Reference

- Visionary leader of dairy cooperative movement
- Committed to farmers' welfare
- Values: Integrity, humility, dedication
- Supported by family

Glossary

- **Resilient:** Able to recover quickly from difficulties
- **Poise:** Graceful and controlled manner

- **Visionary:** Having clear ideas about what the future should be like

Themes in Verghese Kurien – I Too Had A Dream

The letter explores several important themes relevant to personal growth and nation-building.

Key Themes

- **Service to the Nation:** Choosing to work for the welfare of farmers and the country.
- **Integrity and Honesty:** Being true to oneself and others as a foundation for success.
- **Responsibility:** Accepting personal responsibility and contributing to the common good.
- **Perseverance and Dedication:** Continuing efforts despite challenges and failures.
- **Value of Writing and Communication:** Writing as a lasting form of expression and connection.
- **Appreciation of Life:** Cherishing what one has rather than envying others.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What is the main message about service in the letter?
- Why does Kurien value integrity?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how responsibility is portrayed in the letter.
- Discuss the theme of perseverance in Kurien's life.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze how the theme of appreciation of life is developed in the letter.
- How does Kurien’s letter inspire readers to contribute to society?

Answer Key

- **Service message:** Serving the nation and farmers is a noble and meaningful life choice.
- **Integrity value:** It ensures honesty and trustworthiness in all actions.
- **Responsibility:** Each person must use their talents to help others and the community.
- **Perseverance:** Kurien continued his work despite difficulties, showing dedication.
- **Appreciation of life:** Happiness comes from valuing what one has, not comparing with others.
- **Inspiration:** Encourages readers to work bravely and tirelessly for the common good.

Quick Reference

- Service, integrity, responsibility, perseverance, communication, appreciation

Glossary

- **Perseverance:** Continued effort despite difficulties
- **Common good:** Benefit of all members of a community
- **Envy:** Desire for what others have

Literary Devices in Verghese Kurien – I Too Had A Dream

The letter uses several literary devices to convey its message effectively.

Key Literary Devices

- **Letter Format:** Personal and direct communication to the grandson, creating intimacy.
- **Imagery:** Descriptions of life in Anand and the medal ceremony evoke vivid pictures.
- **Repetition:** Emphasizing key ideas like integrity and service to reinforce their importance.
- **Metaphor:** Life described as a "privilege" and "a challenge" to be embraced.
- **Allusion:** Reference to the Padma Vibhushan award and historical context of India's independence.
- **Contrast:** Between career ambitions and chosen path of service.

Examples from Text

- "Life is a privilege and to waste it would be wrong." (Metaphor)
- "Failure is not about not succeeding..." (Repetition of the idea of failure)
- "You slipped the medal around your neck..." (Imagery)

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What is the format of the text?
- Identify one metaphor used in the letter.

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how imagery is used in the description of the medal ceremony.
- What is the effect of repetition in the letter?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the contrast between Kurien's career options and his chosen path.
- Discuss the use of allusion and its significance in the letter.

Answer Key

- **Format:** Letter to grandson.
- **Metaphor:** Life as a privilege.
- **Imagery:** Vivid description of the medal ceremony creates a clear mental picture.
- **Repetition:** Reinforces important values like integrity and service.
- **Contrast:** Shows Kurien's sacrifice and commitment to service over personal gain.
- **Allusion:** Refers to India's independence and national awards, grounding the letter in historical context.

Quick Reference

- Letter format, metaphor, imagery, repetition, allusion, contrast

Glossary

- **Metaphor:** A figure of speech comparing two unlike things
- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the senses
- **Allusion:** An indirect reference to a person, event, or work
- **Repetition:** Repeating words or phrases for emphasis
- **Contrast:** Showing differences to highlight a point