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Follow That Dream Summary

"Follow That Dream" is a motivational prose piece that encourages readers, especially young students, to pursue their dreams with passion, dedication, and perseverance. The text emphasizes that greatness is achieved through sustained effort and sacrifice over many years. It highlights the importance of having a clear goal, counting the cost of pursuing it, and committing oneself fully to the journey despite obstacles. The author shares personal insights and examples to inspire readers to chase their dreams and not settle for mere wishful thinking.

Key Elements

- **Themes:** Dreams and aspirations, perseverance, sacrifice, passion, support systems, and the reality of challenges.
- **Character Sketch:** The mother (author) who writes a heartfelt letter to her daughter, Ming, sharing wisdom and encouragement.
- **Literary Devices:** Metaphors ("dreamscape"), repetition for emphasis, and personal anecdote.
- **Important Quotes:** "Dream is not that you see in sleep, dream is something that does not let you sleep." and "Great men and women become great because they have a dream and they pursue it till it comes true."

Textual Evidence and Explanation

The letter dated 19 June 1995, begins with encouragement to follow dreams, explaining that success requires singular focus and at least ten years of effort. The author stresses the importance of passion and conviction, warning that the path may be difficult but worth pursuing. She also acknowledges that life circumstances may alter dreams but encourages adapting and continuing to strive.

Solved Example

Question: What does the author mean by "dream is something that does not let you sleep"?

Answer: The author means that a true dream is not just a wish or a fantasy seen during sleep, but a powerful desire or goal that motivates and drives a person constantly, keeping them awake with determination and passion to achieve it.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 - Easy:** What is the main message of the letter?
- **Level 2 - Moderate:** Explain the role of sacrifice in achieving a dream as described in the letter.
- **Level 3 - Challenging:** Discuss how life circumstances can change a person's dreams and how one should respond to such changes.

Answer Key

- The main message is to pursue your dreams with passion and perseverance.
- Sacrifice involves investing time, effort, and sometimes giving up security or comfort to achieve a dream.
- Life may force changes in dreams due to obstacles; one should adapt and continue striving towards new or modified goals.

Quick Reference

- Dreams require passion, effort, and sacrifice.
- Success often takes at least ten years of dedicated work.
- Support from family and community is important.
- Life's challenges may change dreams but not the spirit to pursue them.

Glossary

- **Insight:** Clear and deep understanding.
- **Singularly:** Exclusively or solely.
- **Imperative:** Absolutely necessary.
- **Plunge:** To throw oneself into an activity with enthusiasm.
- **Buoyed up:** Kept afloat or encouraged.
- **Wistfully:** Longingly or with a sense of yearning.
- **Dreamscape:** A world or landscape of dreams.

Importance of Following a Dream

Following a dream is essential for personal growth and fulfillment. It gives direction to life and motivates individuals to overcome challenges. Pursuing a dream helps develop qualities such as determination, resilience, and focus. It also encourages creativity and innovation. The process of chasing a dream often involves learning from failures and building a strong character.

Key Elements

- **Reasons to Follow a Dream:** Provides purpose, builds confidence, leads to success, and inspires others.
- **Role of Support:** Family, friends, and community provide encouragement and resources.
- **Challenges:** Sacrifices, obstacles, and the need for long-term commitment.

Textual Evidence and Explanation

The mind map image encourages students to think about why following a dream is important. The letter supports this by showing how passion and conviction keep a person going despite difficulties. The author mentions that winners often acknowledge their support network, highlighting the importance of community.

Solved Example

Question: Why is it important to have a support network when following a dream?

Answer: A support network provides emotional encouragement, practical help, and motivation, which are crucial during difficult times. It helps individuals stay focused and committed to their goals.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 - Easy:** List two reasons why following a dream is important.
- **Level 2 - Moderate:** Describe how family and community can help a person achieve their dreams.
- **Level 3 - Challenging:** Analyze the challenges one might face while pursuing a dream and suggest ways to overcome them.

Answer Key

- Following a dream gives purpose and builds confidence.
- Family and community provide support, guidance, and resources.
- Challenges include sacrifices and obstacles; overcoming them requires perseverance and help from others.

Quick Reference

- Dreams motivate and guide life choices.
- Support systems are vital for success.
- Challenges are part of the journey and can be overcome.

Glossary

- **Conviction:** A firmly held belief or opinion.
- **Support Network:** A group of people who provide help and encouragement.
- **Perseverance:** Continued effort despite difficulties.

Reflect and Respond Questions

This section encourages students to think deeply about their own dreams and the qualities needed to achieve them. It also invites discussion on the role of parents and community in supporting dreams.

Key Elements

- Personal reflection on dreams and inspirations.
- Understanding qualities like determination, patience, and hard work.
- Role of family and community support.
- Discussion on the meaning of Abdul Kalam's quote about dreams.

Sample Answers

- **What is your dream?** My dream is to become a doctor and help people.
- **Who inspires you to dream?** My parents and teachers inspire me to dream big.
- **Qualities needed to fulfill a dream:** Patience, hard work, determination, and courage.
- **Discuss Abdul Kalam's quote:** It means that a true dream motivates you so much that you cannot rest until you achieve it.
- **Role of parents and community:** They provide guidance, encouragement, and resources to help children succeed.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 - Easy:** Name one quality needed to fulfill a dream.
- **Level 2 - Moderate:** Explain how parents can help children achieve their dreams.
- **Level 3 - Challenging:** Discuss the importance of community support in fulfilling dreams.

Answer Key

- Determination is a key quality.
- Parents can encourage, provide resources, and guide children.
- Community support offers motivation, opportunities, and a positive environment.

Quick Reference

- Dreams require personal qualities and external support.
- Reflection helps clarify goals and motivations.
- Parents and community play vital roles in success.

Glossary

- **Determination:** Firmness of purpose.
- **Encouragement:** Support that inspires confidence.
- **Motivation:** The reason or reasons one has for acting or behaving in a particular way.