

- ‘A tree that forgets its root cannot grow’, says Anbu. He loved his grandparents. His grandmother was a great story teller. He shared a silent bond with grandfather. ‘That mud is more valuable than gold’ says grandfather. After his grandmother passed away, they sold their land in village and took grandfather with them. They lived in a flat in Gandhipuram, the heart of the city. Anbu’s grandfather feels lonely there. His mother has many pots in balcony where she grew a few herbs and flowers. His grandfather would sit there for hours.
- ‘Life moves on maybe someday you will go back that gives you life and food’.
- His mother was also helpless regarding this situation as she was not used to talking with him.
- One morning at breakfast, grandfather’s hand shook so much that coffee has spilled on the table cloth and mother spoke harshly to him. Grandfather went away without having breakfast. Grandfather started telling stories to Anbu which is different from grandmother’s stories. It was about birds, grains, ants, goat.
- One night grandpa’s hand shook more and he dropped bowl of porridge. His mother burst into a torrent of unkind words and decided to give food to old man in wooden bowl. Suddenly Anbu took a wooden piece from a shelf and starting to whittle it. When their parents asked about it he told, ‘ I am making a wooden bowl for you when you grow old’. After realising it her mother apologised his grandfather.

APJ ABDUL KALAM

- Auto Biography - Wings of fire
- 11th president of India (2002-2007)
- A notable scientist, Engineer
- People’s president
- Received Bharat Ratna Award
- Born in a middle class family in Rameshwaram.
- Father- Jainulabdeen
- He has great innate wisdom & true generosity of spirit. They lived in a house which was built in the middle of the 19th century.
- My father chooses a simple life style. The famous Shiva temple was about 10 min walk from our house.
- When my father came out of the mosque after prayer to say a prayer:
- Highest preist of Rameshwaram- PakshmiLakshamana Sastri, a very close friend of my father.
- When I asked my father about the rebunance of prayer, he told me, ‘When you pray, you transcend your body and become part of the cosmos which knows no discussion of wealth, age, caste or creed’.

- ‘I have throughout my life tried to emulate my father in my own world of science and technology’, said APJ.
- 3 close friends- Ramananda Sastri, Aravindhan, Sivaprakasan.
- All are orthodox hindu Brahmin.
- When I was in 5th standard in Rameshwaram elementary school a new teacher came to school.
- The new teacher couldn’t put up with a Hindu priest son sitting next with a Muslim boy. I was asked to go & sit in the back bench.
- Ramanandha Sastri was also sad.
- Lakshmana Sastri summoned the teacher and asked the teacher to apologise or quit the school. The teacher regretted his behaviour.
- Science teacher Siva Subramania Iyer- another Brahmin invited me to his home for meal. His wife did not like my presence so the teacher served me with his own hand. When I was leaving, he invited me for dinner again in the next week. Observing my hesitance he told ‘Such problems have to be confronted’. When I visited his house next time, his wife took me and served food’.
- Higher Study- District headquarters at Ra hapuram.
- Father said- ‘This island may housed your body but not your soul. Your soul dwells on house of tomorrow which none can visit even at our dreams’.
- My father visualized me as a Collector.
- The highest result of education is tolerance- Helen keller.

Rani of Jhansi

From Sandhya Rao’s story

- Parents- Moropant Tambe- Bagirathi Bai
- Spouse- Gangadhar Rao
- Born in Banaras.
- Original name- Manikarnika (river Ganga)
- After marriage name- Lakshmi bai
- A wise one said she would be a Queen.
- Her mother told stories from Ramayan, Mahabaratha.
- Mother died when she was four.
- They moved to a place called Bithur.
- Her friends- Nana Sahib, Tantia Tope
- Nana Sahib- Adopted son of Peshwa.
- She was called ‘chabbili’ sweet one by everyone.
- She also went to school.
- Married to Gangadhar Rao and became Rani of Jhansi when she was 15.

- His first wife was Ramabai.
- After marriage Manikarnika's name was changed to 'Lakshmi Bai'.
- She gave birth to a baby in 1851 but he died after three months.
- King Gangadhar Rao adopted a 5 year child Anand Rao, his nephew.
- In November 19, 1853 a colourful ceremony was held and Anand Rao's name was changed to Dhamodar Rao.
- After the death of Gangadhar, British governor Lord Dalhouse announced that he is taking over Jhansi by doctrine of lapse of policy.
- Lakshmi bai was determined not to give up Jhansi. Her efforts become futile. She was only 19 years old when she left the fort and to live in a palace with her son. She taught Damodar to fence, ride, read and write. 3 years passed without disruption.
- 1857- British completely occupied India.
- On summer day May, Sepay of Bengal army in Meerut attacked their British officer and Sepay Ministry began. Lakshmi bai joined the ministry with her soldiers. She secretly set up two factories rifle and swords. Women were given training.
- She was galloping from one place to another. She escaped to Kalpe with Damodar when High Rose tried to capture her.
- She went to Gwalior to seek the support of Sindhia and Gwalior. She told 'we must prepare ourselves for another onslaught'.
- On 3rd day of the war she was shot -23 years- She said, 'Give my jewels to my soldiers and look after little Damador'

After the storm

- Deepa Agarwal

- Saruli- 13 years old girl.
- Row of pines by down on ground due to heavy raid.
- She began to collect wood from the forest for fuel.
- Diwan singh- old man. Head of village said to her, the trees have been totally hollowed by the resin tappers.
- Storm raged the village.
- The trees became weak and hollow due to resin tappers.
- The British planted the pine tree for resin
- Oakand Deodar- nature trees of the hill.
- Oaks bring rain and trap the water
- Pines dry out the land.
- Come play hide & seek said Jaman.
- Sarali & other children pulling the tin cups off the tree.
- One morning 4 man entered to collect resin.

- Lal singh angrily asked the children who did this.
- Saruli jumped from Kafal tree said we did it.
- ‘Run Radha’ saruli cried get from village
- ‘DFO’ sir came there (District forest officer)
- Lal singh said Saruli is the ring leader.
- Saruli said to DFO, we are trying to save our forest.
- DFO said, our job is to preserve forest and stop cutting trees.
- Diwan singh called the girl, the rain have com, lets plan the deodars.
- DFO came and smiled at Saruli ‘keep it up’. The resin tapper will not trouble you again.