

If

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- If is a wonderful poem by Rudyard Kipling.
- It is an inspirational poem that teaches us the art of living.
- Students will evaluate the advice given in the poem and relate it to real life situations, discussing how the qualities described contribute to personal growth and success.

Read and Enjoy

- The poem 'If' by Rudyard Kipling is a set of suggestions from a father to his son. In the poem, the poet tells his son how to cope with different situations in the life ahead. The poem is divided into four stanzas having eight lines each.
- Stanza 1: The poet tells his son that he should keep calm and be patient when others around him fail and put the blame on him. He should trust himself when all others doubt him. However, he should also have space for their doubts and try to understand what made them doubt him.
- In the fifth line, the poet says that one should wait patiently for success and should never be 'tired by waiting' because success comes to those who work hard and remain patient.
- Next, the poet tells his son that other people will often tell him lies. However, he should never lie in his life and always remain truthful. Others will hate him, but he should never hate them back and rather spread love.
- In the last line, the poet advises his son to 'neither look too good, nor talk too wise' because if he acts upon all the advice the poet gave above, he (his son) will look too good and wise among the common people.
- Stanza 2: The poet says that his son should dream big but never make the dreams his master. Similarly, he should think good (about goals, future, etc.) but never make thoughts his aim because in order to succeed in life one has to work hard.
- Mere dreaming and thinking will never lead one to the path of success. So, while one should always dream of goals and think of a better future, at the same time one should work hard to achieve them.
- In the third line, the poet says that one should 'meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same'. Triumph and Disaster are the two extremes of life. The poet calls them 'impostors', i.e., fake. They either make one extremely happy or miserable. However, they are not longlasting and hence one should not take them seriously.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the fifth line, the poet says that his son should only speak the truth and should also have the courage to face it when it is misused by others to mislead others. He should also have the courage to see the things build by him in broken condition and try rebuilding them with worn-out tools, i.e., with what energy or skills you have. ➤ Stanza 3: The poet says that one should make one heap of all the achievements one has made and then take big risks. In other words, one should never be afraid of doing things that can either make one successful or ruin everything ('pitch-and-toss'). If one fails after taking big risks, one should start again from the beginning without thinking or saying anything about the loss to others. One should try again and again until one succeeds. ➤ In the fifth line, the poet says that one should use one's 'heart and nerve and sinew', i.e., courage when one becomes tired or fails. When nothing is left in life, one should have a strong willpower which may encourage one to 'hold on!' ➤ Stanza 4: The poet says that while among the common people, one must keep one's virtues (and never behave like them); and while among the kings (i.e., big personalities), one should never have pride and ego. ➤ Next, the poet says that neither foes (enemies) nor loving friends can hurt one because of the principles and ideals one holds. One should never give them up. People will often remain dependent on the person but he/she should never allow them to remain completely dependent on him/her. ➤ In the next line, the poet talks about the importance of time. According to him, time is precious and will never come back. Hence, one should start using each and every second of one's life. In the final two lines, the poet tells his son that if he (his son) acts upon all the advice he gave above, he will be able to achieve whatever he likes and he will be 'a Man', i.e., a true human being. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercises A, B and C: Read and explain the questions and answer them orally. Then ask the students to write the answers. Check and assess their work individually. 	Read and Understand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercise A: Read and explain the question and let the students do it on their own. Tell them to give reasons for their answer. 	Think and Answer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explain the term 'personification': a literary device that gives human characteristics and qualities to non-human entities, such as animals, objects or concepts. It's a way of adding depth and meaning to descriptions by attributing human-like actions, emotions or thoughts to things that are not human. For example: The wind howled through the night. The flowers danced in the breeze. The sun smiled down on us. ➤ Personification is a powerful tool that allows writers and poets to bring life and personality to things that would otherwise be seen as lifeless or mundane. ➤ Exercise A: Ask the students to do the exercise on their own. The teacher can then announce the answer and the students can check their work. 	Appreciating the Poem

Write Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let the students discuss the question in the class. Then let them write the paragraph on their own. It is advisable to check and assess their work individually.
Project Work/ AIL Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This can be done by students on their own. Ensure that they have all the material for this activity. It is advisable to check and assess their work individually.