

# If

BY RUDYARD KIPLING

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

## Monday:

1. Read the poem (or listen to it

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46473/if--->)

2. Text mark the poem.

3. Vocabulary check: which words don't you know? Can you find out their meaning?

## Tuesday:

Questions:

1. What do you think this poem is about? *Why?*
2. Who do you think the poem is written from the perspective of?
3. Look at **lines 13-16**. What do these lines mean?  
How could we rephrase them in more modern English?
4. The majority of this poem is about what to do if you do not meet your goals.  
What is the advice the poet gives the reader about not meeting their goals?
5. What other titles would have been suitable for this poem?

Explain your choices.

## Answers:

1.