



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Rudyard Kipling's poem "If" was published in 1910. It was written as a father's advice to his son.*

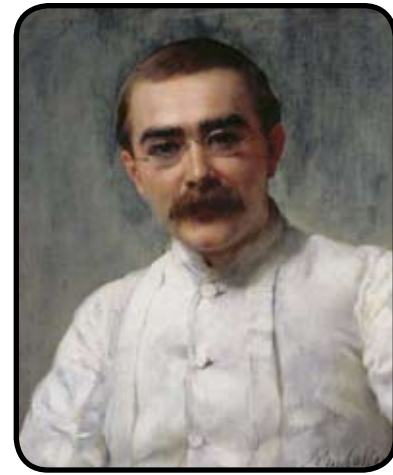
**If** *By Rudyard Kipling*

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.



**Rudyard Kipling**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Understanding “If”

In the poem, Kipling lists several situations and explains the correct way to handle each. Below are some of these situations. Briefly explain each in your own words, and how one should handle them.

1. “If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster/ And treat those two impostors just the same”
2. “If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,/ but make allowance for their doubting too”
3. “If you can fill the unforgiving minute/ With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run”

### Part II. Kipling’s Desirable Characteristics

In “If,” Kipling encourages his son to develop good characteristics. Below is a list of general human character traits. Put a check in the box of the characteristic that Kipling finds desirable.

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. responsible | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. patient   | <input type="checkbox"/> 11. persistent | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. determined  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. greedy      | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. reluctant | <input type="checkbox"/> 12. calm       | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. timid        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. confident   | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. truthful  | <input type="checkbox"/> 13. humble     | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. modest      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. jolly       | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. amusing   | <input type="checkbox"/> 14. impulsive  | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. unforgiving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. snobbish    | <input type="checkbox"/> 10. stubborn | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. arrogant   | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. dependable  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary and Language in "If"

### Part I. Vocabulary Match \_\_\_\_\_

Match each word or phrase in Column A with its meaning in Column B

#### Column A

- \_\_\_\_\_ make allowance
- \_\_\_\_\_ impostors
- \_\_\_\_\_ knaves
- \_\_\_\_\_ winnings
- \_\_\_\_\_ pitch-and-toss
- \_\_\_\_\_ sinew
- \_\_\_\_\_ will
- \_\_\_\_\_ virtue
- \_\_\_\_\_ foes
- \_\_\_\_\_ unforgiving

#### Column B

- A. enemies
- B. prize money from gambling
- C. pretenders; frauds
- D. determination
- E. dishonest people
- F. harsh; allowing no errors
- G. honor
- H. gambling game
- I. long tissue in the body
- J. excuse

### Part II. Figurative Language \_\_\_\_\_

Write an example from the poem of each of the following figures of speech below.

1. Metaphor

2. Personification

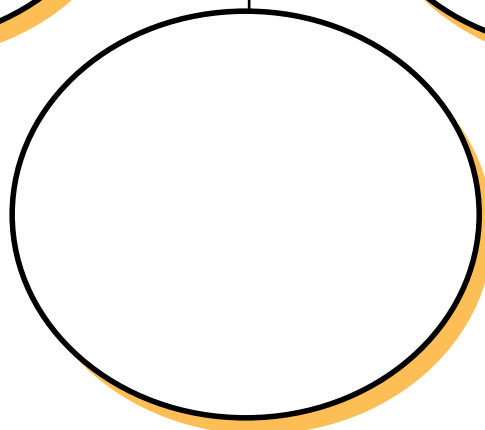
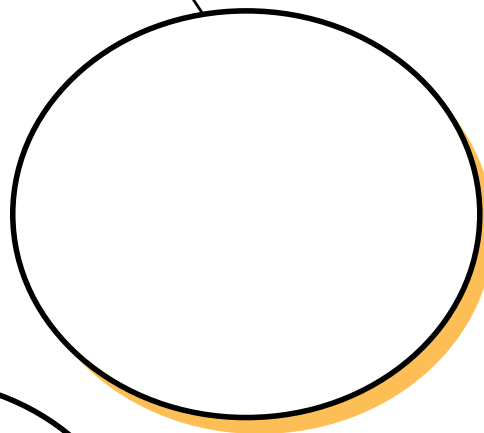
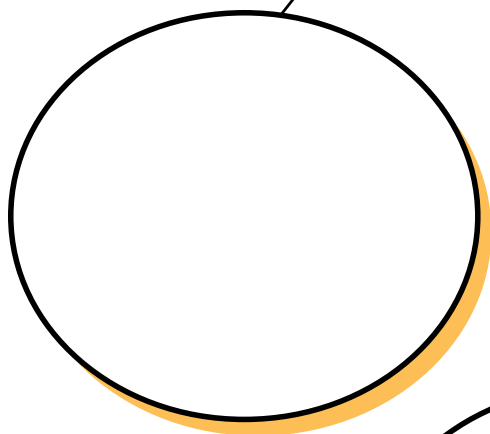
3. Metaphor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the poem. Write three quotations from the poem that support this main idea.

Even if something bad is done to you, you should not do that same bad thing in return.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## “If” Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

Q O T A L U B M A R E P N B C  
I L Z E T I O M A N R A B W D  
P T V Z N L J R Y O Q S A O O  
D K R Z E D I S A S T E R Q K  
F I O U J K F E E B M P N H N  
O E B K S T T H S G U T V D S  
O D U I U T R I F E B G E V O  
K G L P F E A Q I D R E A M S  
J N R L I A J E T W R T D Y U  
D Q Z I N L V I R T U E L N I  
L I C N H O F O W P L E O B K  
P M G G D P Q W H C L S C K K  
L E F H C G I M T P E N A R M  
Z S O N D H T T R I U M P H A  
R Z C Q K T R Z Q F O N F M J

IF  
KIPLING

TRUIPH  
DISASTER

VIRTUE  
LIES

DREAMS  
MAN

SON  
TRUST



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

*Rudyard Kipling's poem "If" was published in 1910. It was written as a father's advice to his son.*

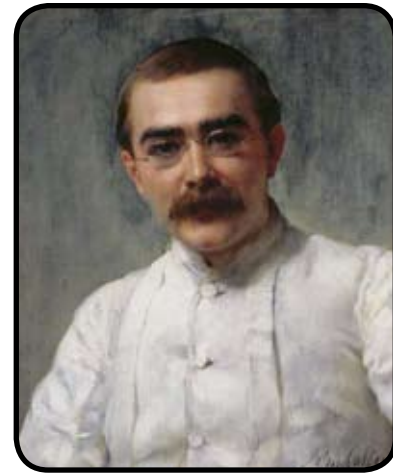
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With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
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**Rudyard Kipling**



## Understanding “If”

In the poem, Kipling lists several situations and explains the correct way to handle each. Below are some of these situations. Briefly explain each in your own words, and how one should handle them.

**Actual student’s answers will vary, but should include a reference to the following:**

1. “If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster/ And treat those two impostors just the same”

**We should meet success and failure with the same outlook; both may last just a short time.**

2. “If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,/ but make allowance for their doubting too”

**We should be confident in our decisions, but also allow others to state an opinion and tolerate any disagreement.**

3. “If you can fill the unforgiving minute/ With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run”

**We should live each minute to the fullest.**

### Part II. Kipling’s Desirable Characteristics

In “If,” Kipling encourages his son to develop good characteristics. Below is a list of general human character traits. Put a check in the box of the characteristic that Kipling finds desirable.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

## Vocabulary and Language in “If”

### Part I. Vocabulary Match \_\_\_\_\_

Match each word or phrase in Column A with its meaning in Column B

#### Column A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **J** \_\_\_\_\_ make allowance
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **C** \_\_\_\_\_ impostors
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **E** \_\_\_\_\_ knaves
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **B** \_\_\_\_\_ winnings
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **H** \_\_\_\_\_ pitch-and-toss
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **I** \_\_\_\_\_ sinew
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **D** \_\_\_\_\_ will
8. \_\_\_\_\_ **G** \_\_\_\_\_ virtue
9. \_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_ foes
10. \_\_\_\_\_ **F** \_\_\_\_\_ unforgiving

#### Column B

- A. enemies
- B. prize money from gambling
- C. pretenders; frauds
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### Part II. Figurative Language \_\_\_\_\_

Write an example from the poem of each of the following figures of speech below.

**Actual student's answers will vary; examples of correct answers:**

1. Metaphor

**“make one heap of all your winnings”**

2. Personification

**“Triumph and Disaster/ And treat those two impostors just the same”**

3. Metaphor

**“fill the unforgiving minute/ With sixty seconds' worth of distance run”**

## Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the poem. Write three quotations from the poem that support this main idea.

Even if something bad is done to you, you should not do that same bad thing in return.

Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

"you can keep your head when all about you/ Are losing theirs and blaming it on you"

"being lied about, don't deal in lies"

"being hated, don't give way to hating"



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ KEY

## “If” Word Search

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Q	O	T	A	L	U	B	M	A	R	E	P	N	B	C
I	L	Z	E	T	I	O	M	A	N	R	A	B	W	D
P	T	V	Z	N	L	J	R	Y	O	Q	S	A	O	O
D	K	R	Z	E	D	I	S	A	S	T	E	R	Q	K
F	I	O	U	J	K	F	E	E	B	M	P	N	H	N
O	E	B	K	S	T	T	H	S	G	U	T	V	D	S
O	D	U	I	U	T	R	I	F	E	B	G	E	V	O
K	G	L	P	F	E	A	Q	I	D	R	E	A	M	S
J	N	R	L	I	A	J	E	T	W	R	T	D	Y	U
D	Q	Z	I	N	L	V	I	R	T	U	E	L	N	I
L	I	C	N	H	O	F	O	W	P	L	E	O	B	K
P	M	G	G	D	P	Q	W	H	C	L	S	C	K	K
L	E	F	H	C	G	I	M	T	P	E	N	A	R	M
Z	S	O	N	D	H	T	T	R	I	U	M	P	H	A
R	Z	C	Q	K	T	R	Z	Q	F	O	N	F	M	J

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KIPLING

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