



If—

Rudyard Kipling

Published Date: 1910

Stanza 1	1	If you can keep your head when all about you	A
	2	Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,	A
	3	If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,	A
	4	But make allowance for their doubting too;	A
	5	If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,	B
	6	Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,	C
	7	Or being hated, don't give way to hating,	B
	8	And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:	C
Stanza 2	9	If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;	D
	10	If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;	E
	11	If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster	D
	12	And treat those two impostors just the same;	E
	13	If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken	F
	14	Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,	G
	15	Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,	F
	16	And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:	G
Stanza 3	17	If you can make one heap of all your winnings	H
	18	And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,	I
	19	And lose, and start again at your beginnings	H
	20	And never breathe a word about your loss;	I
	21	If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew	J
	22	To serve your turn long after they are gone,	K
	23	And so hold on when there is nothing in you	J
	24	Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'	K
Stanza 4	25	If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,	L
	26	Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,	M
	27	If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,	L
	28	If all men count with you, but none too much;	M
	29	If you can fill the unforgiving minute	O
	30	With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,	P
	31	Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,	O
	32	And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!	P

Key Information

Speaker: A father

Central Message: It's important to maintain integrity, resilience, and humility in the face of adversity

Form: Octave

Meter: Iambic Pentameter

Rhyme Scheme: ABAB CDCD

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Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling was an incredibly popular English poet.

His writing is read around the world and studied in classrooms in multiple languages.

Biography



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