

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out.
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are -
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

--*John Greenleaf Whittier*

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Questions:

Research and Discussion Questions

What are your hopes and aspirations?

How do you plan to get there?

What qualities do you need to get there? Do you have it? What are you doing to overcome your shortcomings?

QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of this poem?

2. What is the purpose of this poem?

3. What is the tone of this poem?

4. According to the poem, how does success come about?

5. Why do you think the poet states in stanza one "... rest if you must, but don't you quit"?

6. What is meant by the phrase "a faint and faltering man"?

7. What is the advice given in the second stanza?

8. What is meant by the line "Success is failure turned inside out -"

9. Match the symbolism used in the poem with its message.

Stormy weather

Silver tint

Victory's near

Storm

Fields of failure

Silver lining

a) challenges and hardship that one may face in life

b) hope and positivity in the most difficult situation

c) unpredictable nature of life's trials

d) glimmer of hope

e) setbacks and disappointments encountered

f) potential for success and achievement that awaits

10. What figure of speech is used in the following phrases?

a. "Life is queer with its twists and turns" - _____

b. "And many a failure turns about," - _____

11. Do you like this poem?

12. What you like most about this poem?
