

## If

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*

**Questions:**

**Research and Discussion Questions**

How well do you take criticism?

QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of this poem?

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2. What is the purpose of the poem?

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3. What is the tone of this poem?

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4. According to the poem, where does true strength lie?

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5. Name three qualities one must possess and cultivate?

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6. Name three qualities the writer warned against?

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7. Why do you think the writer advises against allowing dreams  
and thoughts consume and control us?

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8. What is the one thing the writer advises that could be unsettling for the reader?

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9. Reflect on what you have read. Then write three good qualities you possess and three qualities you believe you need to acquire in order to become a better version of yourself.

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