

If

Rudyard Kipling

1. The title “If” suggests that this poem is about
 - a) Choices
 - b) Hypothetical situations
 - c) If-then analysis
 - d) Iffy situations
 - e) The human condition

2. Who is the speaker?
 - a) A teacher
 - b) A yoga instructor
 - c) A parent
 - d) A guidance counselor
 - e) A sage

3. The lines, “If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too” suggest that it’s important to
 - a) Trust yourself to spend your allowance wisely
 - b) Believe in yourself, but recognize that no one is perfect
 - c) Spend time with children because they will doubt you less
 - d) Trust yourself, but doubt others
 - e) Realize that if everyone thinks you are wrong, you probably are

4. The line “if you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same” suggests
 - a) Treat every win like it’s a loss
 - b) Stay emotionless
 - c) Winning isn’t that great
 - d) Triumph and disaster are fake
 - e) Triumph and disaster are how you interpret the situation

5. The line “if you can dream—and not make dreams your master” suggests that you should
 - a) Enslave your dreams
 - b) Master your dreams and goals
 - c) Get lots of sleep so you will have good dreams
 - d) Spend your life trying to make all your dreams come true
 - e) Dream, but don’t let dreams distract you from what’s important

6. The phrase “don’t look too good, nor talk too wise” is about the virtue of
 - a) Mediocrity
 - b) Nicety
 - c) Humility
 - d) Honesty
 - e) Vanity

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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 imposters 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 wornout 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!