

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 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 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!

Week 2 day 1 poetry challenge 3

Answer in full sentences.

1. Who is the poem written for? Give evidence for your answer.

2. Why did Kipling write this poem?

3. Explain the phrase '...keep your head...'.

4. Which quality is the poet writing about in line 5?

5. Explain the phrase '...don't deal in lies,'.

6. Which poetic device is used in lines 11 and 12? Explain your answer.

7. What might the word 'knaves' mean?

8. Summarise the meaning behind lines 21-24.

9. Explain your understanding of the following line: 'Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch,'.

10. What did the poet mean when he wrote the following lines? Explain your reasoning.

'If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,'

11. Which do you think is the best piece of advice? Explain your reasoning.

12. Write a new piece of advice which would be appropriate to add to the poem.
