

“If”

by

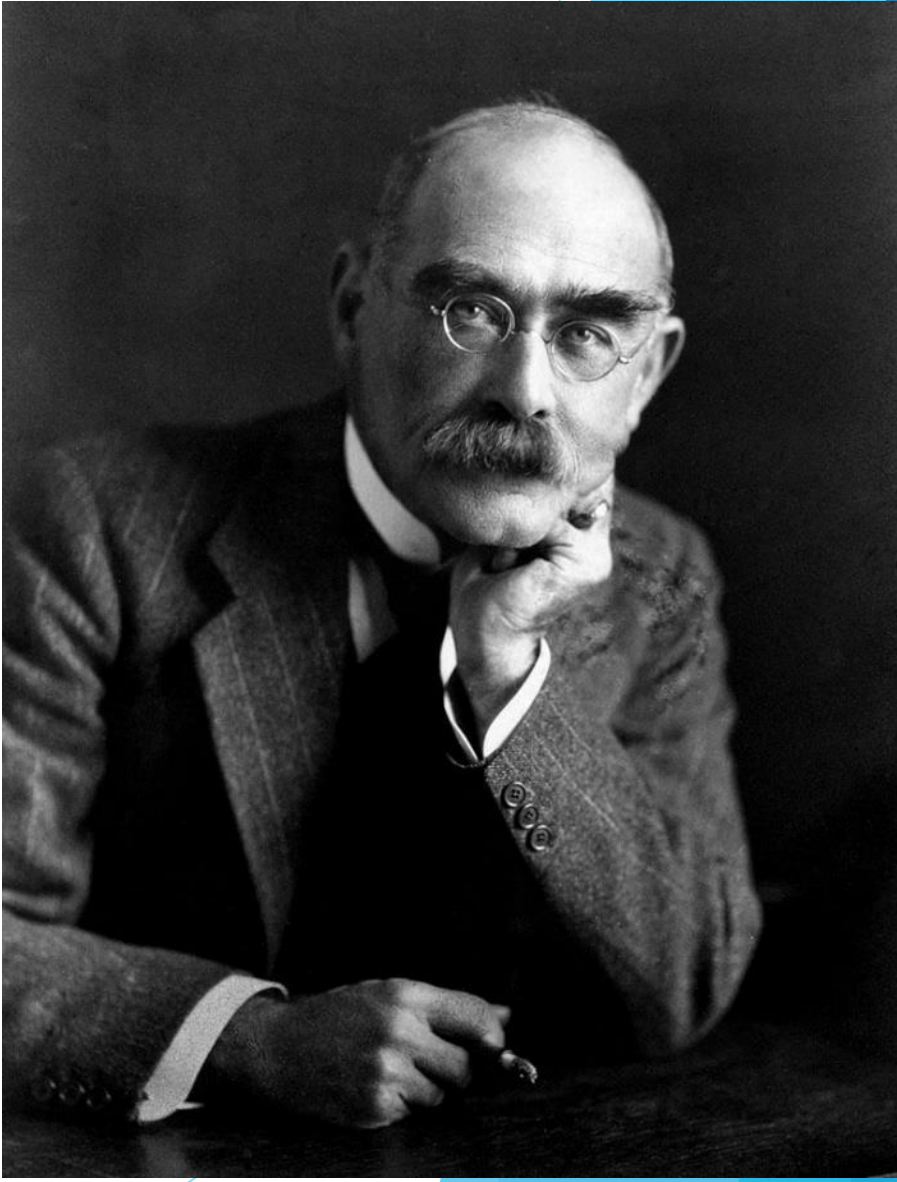
Rudyard Kipling

11/04/2020



Open Students Book, p. 126

Read the text



British author and poet, born in Bombay, India. He had a very happy childhood until, at the age of six, he and his sister were sent to England to be educated. His next six years were miserable. He was neglected and treated cruelly by the couple who were looking after him. At 12, he went to live with his aunt and only then spoke of what he had gone through. At the age of 16, he returned to his beloved India where he worked as a journalist. He wrote many poems and short stories, including *Mandalay* (1890) and *Gunga Din* (1892). These were published in the paper along with his news reports and later as collections.

He travelled extensively and married in 1892. Over the next few years Kipling wrote *The Jungle Books* (1894-1895), *Captains Courageous* (1897), *The Day's Work* (1898) and many more. He had two daughters and a son, and life was wonderful until his eldest

daughter died of pneumonia at the age of 7. From then on, life was never the same again, and the family moved to the English countryside for a secluded life. Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, but he turned down the honour of Poet Laureate¹ and a knighthood many times.

Kipling's most famous poem *If* (1895) is an inspiring, motivational poem about how to overcome difficulties. It emphasises the value of inner strength and the ability to not show your emotions.

¹ a poet appointed by government to write poems for special occasions

Listen to the poem. Then read the text by yourself.

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 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!*

Задания на контроль.

(прислать по электронной почте)

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до 14 апреля 20-00

Выберите 1 из 4-х восьмистиший стихотворения “If” и подготовьте его выразительное чтение.

Запишите на диктофон свое чтение и пришлите аудиофайл на контроль.