

## Rhetoric Analysis of Rudyard Kipling's "If-"

Please read the poem by yourself and ponder over what you find out in the poem.

- ☺ Form: This poem is more of a \_\_\_\_\_ dramatic \_\_\_\_\_. There are \_\_\_\_\_ lines in each of the stanzas.
- ✚ **Line:** the length of a line is usually counted by the number of \_\_\_\_\_, not words.  
Question: How many syllables form each of the lines?

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- ✚ **Stanza:** it is similar to a \_\_\_\_\_ in a prose.
- ☺ **Theme:** common sense circumstances in life
- Stanza 1: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

*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:*

- Stanza 2: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*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:*

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1 **METAPHOR:** It is a type of analogy. Unlike simile, a metaphor is a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison.

2 **PERSONIFICATION:** It is a figure of speech in which an idea or thing is given human attributes or feelings or is spoken of as if it were human.

3 **HYPERBOLE:** It is the use of extravagant exaggeration as a figure of speech.

➤ Stanza 3: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*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!'*

➤ Stanza 4: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

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!

☺ **Rhyme Scheme<sup>2</sup>:**

➤ Stanza 1: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Other 3 stanzas: \_\_\_\_\_

☺ **Tone:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>2</sup> **RHYME SCHEME:** A rhyme scheme is the pattern of sounds that repeats at the end of a line or stanza.

<sup>3</sup> **REPETITION:** It is a major rhetorical strategy for producing emphasis, clarity, amplification, or emotional effect.

<sup>4</sup> **IMAGERY:** It is a literary device that refers to the use of figurative language to evoke a sensory experience or a picture with words for a reader.