“If-“

Written by Rudyard Kipling

Your Translations and Reactions

Write an essay describing what you think the poem means and describing your reaction to the poem. See the outline for suggestions.

- **Choose two of the lines from the poem that mean the most to you.**

- **What do those two lines in the poem mean to you?**

- **Why do those lines "speak to you"?**

- **What are these lines trying to tell people about life?**
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Sample Outline:

Paragraph One: Introduction

**Sample:** The poem "If-" written by Rudyard Kipling is a powerful poem that is a guide that suggests ways to live a good life. There are several lines from the poem that inspire me and speak to me. Many of the lines from the poem have powerful messages about life.

Paragraph Two:

- Describe one of the lines from the poem.
- Explain what the line means to you.

**Sample:** One line in Kipling’s poem that really stands out to me is “If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster And treat those two imposters just the same;” This line reminds me that the way I think and act about the successes and challenges in my life should be treated the same. Successes and challenges do not define me or my life. Successes and challenges are a part of life. This line reminds me to have hope when things are going well and hope when things are hard.
Paragraph Three:

• What is the above line from the poem trying to tell people about life?
  • Also, explain why this line is inspiring.

➢ Sample: The above line from Kipling’s poem is trying to tell people to not get upset with challenges and not to get too happy about successes in life. The above line from Kipling’s poem is inspiring because it helps me put life in perspective. It is inspiring because it helps people to realize that both ups and downs are a part of life and neither is more important than the other.

Paragraph Four:

• Describe another one of the lines from the poem.
 ➢ Sample: Another line from Rudyard Kipling’s poem that stands out to me is “...”

  • Explain what this line means to you.
  • See paragraph two for a sample.

Paragraph Five:

• What is the line from paragraph four trying to tell people about life?
  • Also, explain why this line is inspiring.
  • See paragraph three for a sample.

Paragraph Six: Conclusion