



If: A Father's Advice to His Son

Rudyard Kipling , Charles R. Smith Jr. (Photographer)

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What makes a boy into a man?

Courage.

Confidence.

Patience.

Integrity...

For more than one hundred years, this classic poem has inspired readers to reach for the best in themselves.

In pictures and words, here's what every boy needs to know most.

If: A Father's Advice to His Son Details

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From Reader Review If: A Father's Advice to His Son for online ebook

Heidi-Marie says

The illustrations didn't always illustrate the text as well for me. But this poem--whose last line I know very well--was one I did not know. And found much beauty and depth in. So though the pictures didn't help with the words, they did, however, reflect the depth and wishing found in the poem.

Sara Bakker says

If

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!
Rudyard Kipling

Diana Pettis says

Well written. I would use with older students.

Nimrodel says

"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,
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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!"

Crina Bucur says

Extended mantra of humanity's frail equilibrium

Alberto says

Nice poem.

Ale Rivero says

Las únicas letras que acompañan este libro, dejando de lado biografías, son las que componen el poema "If" o "Carta al hijo".

Este poema es más que famoso y creo que justamente lo es por ser tan hermoso, verdadero y atemporal, además que logra enseñar mucho con tan pocas palabras, seguro lo que más les suene sea la estrofa final del poema:

"si puedes llenar el minuto implacable
con sesenta segundos que valgan la pena,
tuya es la Tierra y todo lo que hay en ella,
y -lo que es más- ¡serás un Hombre, hijo mío!"

Y por supuesto, las ilustraciones, realizadas por el italiano Mauro Evangelista son completas obras de arte, que tienen mucho significado y le dan aún más peso a las palabras de Kipling, en especial si se tienen en cuenta las referencias de las mismas que aparecen al final del libro.

Más que recomendable.

Hasna says

"If-" by Rudyard Kipling is yet another example of great 19th century poetry. A father's invaluable advice to his son, written with the beauty and elegance that only the 19th century could achieve. Oh wait, I just checked and this poem was first published in 1910 but I will still categorise it as 19th century because it takes a while to get over a century, especially one as interesting as the 19th. Until the mid-1920s, I think it's safe to say that it was still basically the 19th century. It seems like a weak argument just because I'm biased in favour of poetry written in the 1800s and that may be partially true but that doesn't make my argument any weaker or at all invalid. Feel free to argue and I shall take on the challenge.

Anyway, back to the review..

My siblings and I were talking about good poems and my sister mentioned this one (the only one of the ones we talked about that I didn't know) so I set about searching the internet for it. I found it and read it aloud as they listened. And boy was I impressed by it.

I would read this again. And (Naimah is going to be disappointed in me for this) I would gladly sit in an

English Literature class and analyse this poem thoroughly. In fact, I wish I could.

What a shame we have to grow up and apart from our old lives. I miss English Lit lessons analysing 19th century poetry with Mr Laing and Mrs Barraclough-Dunn!

???? says

wonderful..read it after sooo long..

Jeff Beardsley says

This is one of my favorite poems by one of my absolute favorite authors. I like to read it towards the end of each calendar year as a form of inspiration for all my plans in the coming New Year. This poem is full of such wisdom and inspiration. I highly recommend taking the time to reading this short poem. This particular version is wonderful for the Kindle App on a Smartphone. It has quite a few interesting pictures and maps that relate to Kipling's time in India. Wonderful!

Sara Bakker says

It is all unfolded in a very magical onward way ...
The title is put in a very intelligent way to be a very catchy one
the poem itself is a work of art , in one word a masterpiece

Lila Dimaki says

Κ?θε στ?χος και μια αξ?α με την οπο?α οφε?λεις να μεγαλ?σεις το παιδ? σου για να γ?νει
?νθρωπος.

Narendr?ditya Nalwa says

**Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!**

Nikhil says

Brings a tear of pride to my eye by the last line.

Jen says

This is a poem by Rudyard Kipling. It is one that should be memorized. It is about having character that is worthy.
