

■ Activity I (Read and Respond)

◆ **The first stanza of 'If' speaks about the need for self-confidence. Do you agree? Why?**
I agree with this statement. When the people around you are losing their heads and are blaming you for it, you should not lose your head. You should have trust in yourself. You should have the patience to wait. You should not tell lies even if all the people around you are doing so. You should not hate others even if others hate you. Only a self-confident person will be able to do all the above-mentioned deeds.

◆ **What does the poet say about patience?**
According to the poet, one should be willing to wait, and don't be tired of waiting. One should not give up optimism.

◆ **Explain the poet's views on honesty and**

fortitude of character.

Even if other people are telling lies about you, you should not tell lies. Even when other people hate you, you should not start hating others.

◆ **Lines 5 - 7 speak about the need for righteous behaviour in the face of unrighteousness. How far do you agree?**

An ideal person ought to follow the righteous path, even if the people around him are engaging in evil ways.

◆ **What is the poet's approach to dreams and longings?**

According to the poet, one should have a balanced approach towards dreams and longings. Dreams and longings should not be allowed to take an upper hand in your life and destroy your peace of mind.