

★ Based on the responses you have got, prepare an appreciation of the poem 'If'. (consider theme, language, style, figures, symbols, relevance).

Ans) The poem 'If' was written by the English poet Rudyard Kipling. It is a beautiful lyric. It is written in the form of advice given to a son by his father. The father wants his son to become a perfect gentleman with all good qualities.

The father wants his son to be calm even when others blame him. When people doubt him, he should trust himself. He should not tell lies. He should have patience. Dreams are good but they should not be allowed to become his masters. Thinking also is good but thoughts alone should not be his aim. He should keep a balanced attitude towards success and failure. If all his winnings are lost all of a sudden, he should not get upset. He should start from the beginning and find success again. When he talks with ordinary people, he should keep his dignity. When he walks with the King he should not lose the common touch. Neither his friends nor his enemies should be able to hurt him. All men should be able to

count on his help. He should not offend people even if he is offended by them. If he does all these things, he can become a perfect man.

The poem is written in four stanzas of eight lines. Stanza 1 has the rhyme *aaaacdc*. Stanzas 2, 3 and 4 have the rhyme scheme *ababdc*. The poem is written in iambic pentameter.

There are a number of symbols and figures used in the poem. Personification is the major figure of speech used in the poem. Triumph and Disasters are personified. 'Will' which says 'Hold on', 'Deal in lies', 'breathe a word', etc are other examples of personification. Parallelism, contrasts, etc are other poetic devices employed in the poem.

The message conveyed in the poem is significant for any individual. The pieces of advice included in it make it a didactic poem. As the poet says at the end of the poem, if a man practises all these, he can become a perfect man.