



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>CLASS: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of Submission: APRIL 2023</b>
<b>QUESTION BANK NO: 6</b>	<b>Topic: IF (POEM) ANSWER KEY</b>	<b>Note: NOTEBOOK</b>

### I Answer the following questions:

#### **1. What should you do when you are blamed and doubted?**

We should remain calm when we are blamed by others. We should have self-belief when we are doubted by others.



#### **2. Why are 'Triumph and Disaster' called 'two impostors'?**

'Triumph' and 'Disaster' have been personified here. They make us feel elated and despairing respectively. Since both feelings are impermanent, they are deceptive by nature. Hence 'Triumph' and 'Disaster' are said to be imposters.

#### **3. How is 'Will' important?**

'Will' is important because a strong will helps us to conquer a failing human body.



#### **4. How should one's behaviour be with crowds and kings? Why do you think it should be so?**

One's behaviour should be courteous yet confident whether one is with crowds or kings. One should display one's virtues in the company of common people and show one's connections with the common people in the company of the elite. It should be so because it will allow us to remain a good person in all kinds of company.

#### **5. What is meant by 'the unforgiving minute'?**

However much we may repent wasting time, it does not forgive us and return. This is meant by 'the unforgiving minute'.

### II Explain these lines with reference to the context.

1. *If you can keep your head when all about you*

*Are losing theirs and blaming it on you*

#### **a. Which quality does the speaker want his son to have in these lines?**

The speaker wants his son to have the quality of self-control.

#### **b. What do you understand by the term 'keep your head'?**

The term 'keep your head' means remain calm in a conflict situation.

2. *If you can think- and not make thoughts your aim*

**a. What do you understand by this line?**

The line means that one must think on issues but must not stop at thinking. One's goal should be something more than just thoughts.

**b. What should be the 'aim' of the listener?**

The 'aim' of the person must be to translate his good thoughts into action.

3. *If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken*

*Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools*

**a. Who are the 'knaves'? What quality is attributed to them by the speaker?**

The 'knaves' are the people who distort the meaning of others' sincere words to trap foolish people into believing the wrong thing and then use them for their (the knaves') own advantage. The speaker has attributed the quality of 'cunning' to the knaves.

**b. What 'truth' is the speaker talking about?**

The speaker is talking about whatever is sincerely said as 'truth'.

**III. Think and Answer.**

1. How relevant is the speaker's advice? How can you imbibe it in your life?

The speaker's advice is very relevant even today because each piece of advice is a life lesson. We can imbibe it in our lives by remaining calm and collected in difficult circumstances, by not complaining about the troubles that life brings to each of us, by mixing with everyone in a friendly manner, by developing our mental strength, by being active participants and not passive criticsers, by utilising each moment in fruitful activity etc.

**IV. Match the following with their meanings:**

Word	Meaning
1. keep your head	c. to remain calm under stress
2. make allowance for	d. to consider something
3. impostors	e. people who pretend, untruthful people
4. knaves	f. Dishonest people.
5. stoop	g. to bend down
6. worn out	h. badly damaged; overused
7. sinew	b. tissue that binds muscle to bone
8. virtue	a. any good quality or habit

## FIGURES OF SPEECH IN THE POEM

### ➤ Metaphor

Metaphors are implied comparison between two different things where there is a point of similarity.

*“If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same.”*

In the above lines, ‘triumph and disaster’ are compared to impostors. Success and failure both can deceive us, as we may become so happy or too sad and forget our duty. Moreover, triumph and disaster both are transitory — in most cases they don’t last long. Happiness comes after sorrow and vice-versa. But we are often deceived in thinking them to be permanent.

### ➤ Personification

Personification is attributing human characteristics to non-human objects.

*“If you can dream — and not make dreams your master.”*

In the above line, the poet urges us not to allow our ‘**dreams**’ to act like our master and control us. Our dreams acting like a master is a personification of dream.

*“If you can meet with triumph and disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;”*

‘**Triumph**’ and ‘**disaster**’ are here attributed human characteristics and called ‘impostors’ or deceivers who can befool us.

*“If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run,”*

‘**Minute**’ or time is here personified by the term ‘unforgiving’. Time waits for none. The poet says that it does not ‘forgive’ those who waste their valuable time. Forgiving is a human quality attributed to ‘minute’ here.

*“Except the Will which says to them: “Hold on!””*

‘**Will**’ or human resolution is personified as it can encourage us not to give up.

### ➤ Symbolism

It is the use of language in a way that something has a symbolic or deeper meaning other than the apparent one.

*“And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,”*

‘**Pitch-and-toss**’ is a game. But here it is a symbol for big risks in life. The poet advises us to take bigger risks if it is for good reasons.

*“If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch.”*

In the above lines, ‘**crowds**’ symbolizes the common people, ‘**kings**’ symbolizes important persons and ‘**common touch**’ refers to humbleness.

*“Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it,”*

This line is not to be taken literally. Kipling means to say that if we possess those good qualities, we will find ourselves to be highly successful in life and winning the hearts of people. It would resemble winning the earth itself.

➤ **Synecdoche**

It is when we use parts of something to mean the whole or vice-versa.

*“If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew”*

‘**heart and nerve and sinew**’ are parts to mean the whole body. The poet says, we must force our body to keep working by the power of will, even after it has lost its vigour.

➤ **Anaphora**

Anaphora is a rhetorical device that consists of repeating a sequence of words at the beginnings of neighboring clauses.

The poem ‘If- ‘is a collection of several ‘if clauses’ which start with ‘**If you can...** ‘

