

English Poem If Std. 10th (L.L.)

Rudyard Kipling

Marathi Explanation #EnglishForLearners

| <p>First Stanza</p> <p>If you can keep your head when all about you Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="197 848 1094 991"><thead><tr><th>Positive qualities</th><th>Negative qualities</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>keep your head</td><td>lose your head</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Or a opposite reaction</p> <p>Antithesis : opposites or strongly contrasting ideas are placed</p> | Positive qualities | Negative qualities | keep your head | lose your head | <p>Not to get angry. remain calm; To be a good human being and to succeed in life, we should keep calm when other people around us are losing their cool. We should not lose our temperament even if others are blaming us for their fault.</p> <p>Losing the temper does not solve a problem, rather intensifies that. Keeping the head cool makes us think wisely to face those tough situations, and ultimately a solution comes out.</p> | | |
|--|--|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Positive qualities | Negative qualities | | | | | | |
| keep your head | lose your head | | | | | | |
| <p>If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, But make allowance for their doubting too; (take into consideration;)</p> <p>(1) When the people around us doubt us, we should trust ourselves.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="239 1620 1037 1813"><thead><tr><th>Positive qualities</th><th>Negative qualities</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>keep your head</td><td>lose your head</td></tr><tr><td>● trust yourself</td><td>● doubt others.</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Antithesis (Opposite ideas): If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you.</p> | Positive qualities | Negative qualities | keep your head | lose your head | ● trust yourself | ● doubt others. | <p>We should have the faith in ourselves, even when others doubt us. But after that, we should give some importance to their doubt too and try to find out what may be the reason for their suspicion. After all, ‘To err is human...’.</p> <p>So, By keeping faith in ourselves we make sure that we don’t get demoralized or disheartened. And, by allowing others’ doubt a little space of thought, we ensure that we are not doing something wrong knowingly or unknowingly.</p> |
| Positive qualities | Negative qualities | | | | | | |
| keep your head | lose your head | | | | | | |
| ● trust yourself | ● doubt others. | | | | | | |
| <p>If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,</p> | <p>We should work hard and wait for the result patiently. We should not get tired by waiting.</p> <p>There are a number of real life examples where people missed big opportunities only by losing their patience. Moreover, there goes a number of proverbs. “Hurry will bury you.” “Haste makes waste.” “Patience pays off.” So, it’s quite understandable why the poet makes a point for patience here.</p> | | | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Or being lied about, <u>don't deal in lies</u>, (False things spoken about oneself by others ;)</p> | <p>People may lie about us to others, but <u>we should not indulge ourselves in lies</u>. In other words, we should always remain truthful.</p> <p>If we are misled or tempted to lie, people would ultimately discover the truth and won't believe us anymore. That's why it's important to speak the truth even if that hurts us.</p> |
| <p>Or being hated, <u>don't give way to hating</u>, (allow hatred to take control of oneself;)</p> | <p>People may show their hatred towards us, yet we should not hate them. We should show our love and respect to others.</p> <p>No man or woman is perfect in this world. Everyone has his strengths and weaknesses. We have to accept that and respect them for the good qualities in them.</p> |
| <p>And yet <u>don't look too good, nor talk too wise</u>: (not to be excessively ideal, not to be perfect; show off one's knowledge;) (Figure of speech: Repetition)</p> | <p>We should not show us as too good a person or talk too wisely with common people, even after possessing such qualities.</p> <p>Having acquired all these good qualities mentioned above, people generally feel proud and tend to show off how good they are. But, the poet warns us not to go that way. In that case, others would feel uncomfortable in our company and avoid us. Even others may try to prove us wrong at any cost, leading to an unhealthy competition.</p> |
| <p>Second stanza If you can dream—and not make dreams your master; (Figure of : Repetition)</p> | <p>To do something bigger, we should dream first. But the poet also reminds us not to be guided by unrealistic dreams. If dreams take the driver's seat, we would get detached from reality and eventually fail.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>There goes a saying – “You have to dream first before your dream can come true.” So we should dream to reach great heights in life, but keeping the reality in mind.</p> |
| <p>If you can think-and not make thoughts your aim;</p> | <p>We should be able to think over a matter, but should not make the thoughts our aim. That is to say that we often lose our radar and get detached from the main point. So our thinking should not be scattered misleading us away from the target.</p> |
| <p>If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster And treat those two impostors just the same;</p> <p>(Victory, great success ;) (those who deceive others by pretending to be someone else)</p> <p>(Figure of speech: personification)</p> <p>Personification is a <u>figure of speech</u> in which an idea or thing is given human attributes and/or feelings or is spoken of as if it were human</p> | <p>Life is a combination of success and failure, joy and sorrow, good times and bad times. We should accept both and face both situations with similar treatment.</p> <p>Here the poet personifies Triumph and Disaster, capitalizing and calling them ‘two impostors’ (pretenders or cheaters). People becomes too happy in success and forgets their duty at hand. We may also get too complacent or proud at a small success, reducing our chances to reach higher goals. Again, at bad times, if we are too grieved, we may lose our faith and confidence. In both cases, our regular course of work is hampered.(interrupt) That is why the poet calls triumph and disaster ‘two impostors’. He asks us to treat those deceivers similarly, with a smiling face. In short, don’t be too happy or too sad under any circumstances.</p> |
| <p>If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,</p> <p>(Slaves, dishonest persons ;)</p> | <p>We have to bear the tough situations where we see that our speech or statement is distorted बिगाड़ना by someone to befool others. Very often we see that people misinterpret or even deliberately distort our words to use it in their favour. We should not lose our temper hearing that.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>* (7) What does the poet call people who twist the truth to suit them? (सत्याचा त्यांच्या अनुकूल (सोयीने) विपर्यास करणाऱ्या लोकांना कवी काय म्हणतो?)</p> <p>Ans. The poet calls “knaves” to the people who twist the truth to suit them.</p> | <p>Rather we should tolerate that, ensuring we have spoken the truth.</p> |
| <p>Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:</p> <p>(if you can watch those things created by you being broken up and still you can bow down and build them up again using worn-out tools,)</p> <p>(Figures of speech:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Alliteration: With worn-out tools Metaphor: And stoop and rebuilt them up with worn-out tools. | <p>We have to hold our nerves even after seeing that our favourite thing that we built with all our effort and time is broken. Then we have to pick up the scattered parts and build it all over again. This is another key to getting to the top of the world, according to the poet.</p> <p>To keep our cool is not easy in such a situation. But patience and the mental toughness would help us build them again. Indeed, there is a story about Newton that the papers containing his theories were destroyed in fire, and he wrote them again from the beginning.</p> |
| | |
| | |
| <p>Fourth third.</p> <p>If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,</p> <p>(Keep one's goodness or morals under any condition ;) (Refuse to interact with common people, to not communicate well with ordinary people ;)</p> | <p>We should stay in touch with people from every class of the society. We should be able to talk with common mass without losing our virtue or moral values. Again, we should be able to walk with kings without going beyond the reach of the common people.</p> <p>The common touch would help us realize the reality and feel the needs of the society. On the other hand, the noble touch would give us the power and opportunity to reach higher goals.</p> |
| <p>If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, If all men count with you, but none too much;</p> <p>(be equally important to you)</p> | <p>We should build ourselves strong enough, mentally and physically, so that neither enemies nor loving friends can hurt us. Moreover, we should develop healthy</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>relationship with everyone around us, and should not allow anyone to harm us.</p> <p>We have to develop our personality the right way, so that everyone supports us and gives us importance (count with you), but none too much. If we allow someone to give us too much importance, we may be emotionally bound. That may restrict our freedom and prevent us from doing our duty. Or, we may get complacent thinking that we are so much liked by people, thus reducing our effort.</p> |
| <p>If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds' worth of distance run, (make good use of every second without wasting)</p> | <p>Time is precious. A minute is filled with sixty seconds. Time (minute) is here called unforgiving, as it waits for none and doesn't forgive him who wastes it. We should utilize every minute of our life in productive work. Wasting time is not something we can afford in our short lifespan.</p> |
| <p>Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son. (to be a good, perfect human being)</p> | <p>Finally comes the achievement that we can get if we fulfil all the conditions mentioned so far. We can win this earth and everything in it. We can go to top of the world and rule over everything. And what is more, We would be a complete and perfect human being.</p> <p>We should not forget that Kipling wrote this poem for his son, as it is addressed in the very last line. The poet wanted to show his son the right way to be a future leader. But it has inspired many a man in their journey of life on earth so far.</p> |