

6th - 8th Grades

Lesson Plans

“If” by: Rudyard Kipling

Live with Purpose-A Belief in the Greater Good

humility
doubt integrity
trials persistent morals
Kipling resolve
obstacles IF patience
overcome perseverance
adversity honor
resilient
respect
success



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6-8	Lesson: "If" by Rudyard Kipling, Live with Purpose, A Belief in the Greater Good

<p>CCSSRL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.</p> <p>CCSSRL.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.</p> <p>CCSSRL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Write/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group
MATERIALS:	Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of the Write/Pair/Share activity; copies of "If" by Rudyard Kipling; copies of Poetry Analysis Worksheet for "If" by Rudyard Kipling; Theme Word Search Puzzle "If"
Engage: Hook the students	Hand out the Write/Pair/Share Activity. Students will have 5 minutes to answer the following questions: What is the best piece of advice someone has ever given to you? Who gave it to you? Did you follow their advice? At the end of 5 minutes, you will be paired with a partner, you will read your answer to your partner and they will read their response to you.
Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.	Hand out copies of the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling. Play the read aloud version of the poem. https://www.poetryfoundation.org/play/77063 Students will follow along with their hard copy of the poem. Each student should reread the poem silently. Hand out copies of the Poetry Analysis Worksheet for "If" by Rudyard Kipling. Allow students time to complete the assignment. Hand out copies of the Theme Word Search Puzzle. Allow students time to complete the assignment. Read the National Salute to Veteran Patients Project aloud to students. Allow students time to write a note to a veteran thanking them for their service to our country. Students may use the card template or design their own. Print project completion certificates here .
Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.	perseverance humility persistent integrity honor success obstacles doubt morals respect trials overcome adversity resilient resolve patience
Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.	Students will determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings and Grade 6-analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone/Grade 7-analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.
Evaluate: assessment.	Teachers will select which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.
Enrichment/Service-Learning Project	Students will brainstorm a classroom project to extend kindness to others in their community or in their country. The National Salute to Veteran Patients takes place during the week of February 14 every year. This year, it takes place from February 11 to 17. See the last page for more information.

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Name _____

Write-Pair-Share

You will have **5 minutes** to answer the following questions: What is the best piece of advice someone has ever given to you? Did the advice encourage you to live with purpose? Who gave you the advice? Did you follow their advice?

At the end of 5 minutes, you will be paired with a partner, you will read your answer to your partner and they will read their response to you. Write on the back if necessary.

---cut here-----cut here-----cut here---

Name _____

Write-Pair-Share

You will have **5 minutes** to answer the following questions: What is the best piece of advice someone has ever given to you? Did the advice encourage you to live with purpose? Who gave you the advice? Did you follow their advice?

At the end of 5 minutes, you will be paired with a partner, you will read your answer to your partner and they will read their response to you. Write on the back if necessary.

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"If"

By: Rudyard Kipling

_____ 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!

Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6-8	Lesson: "If" by Rudyard Kipling, Live with Purpose, A Belief in the Greater Good

Name _____

Poetry Analysis "If" by Rudyard Kipling

1. Number the lines in each poem and label the rhyme scheme.
2. Read the poem 2 times. Circle any unknown words, look them up in a dictionary.
3. Summarize each stanza.
4. Annotate the poem by noticing and labeling any literary devices, figurative language, symbolism, imagery, etc.

Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
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5. Identify the major theme of the poem. Provide evidence to support your choice.
6. Identify your favorite line or phrase from the poem. Explain why you chose it as your favorite.
7. Kipling wrote "If" as advice from a father to his son in 1895. Do Kipling's words of advice inspire you to be a better person? to live with purpose? to believe in the greater good? Explain your answer.

Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6-8	Lesson: "If" by Rudyard Kipling, Live with Purpose, A Belief in the Greater Good

ANSWER KEY

Name _____

Poetry Analysis "If" by Rudyard Kipling

1. Number the lines in the poem and label the rhyme scheme. The poem follows the AAAABCD C rhyme scheme in the first stanza, while in the other three, it is ABABCD CD, and this pattern continues until the end.
2. Read the poem 2 times. Circle any unknown words, look them up in a dictionary.
3. Summarize each stanza.

Stanza 1: In this first "if" scenario, Kipling reminds the reader of the importance of maintaining a level head even when those around the reader do not have one and are blaming the situation on the reader. The speaker emphasizes two traits that all people must possess: self-trust and the ability to understand the thoughts and feelings of others, even if that means understanding that people will not always like or agree with you. The speaker is telling the reader to have patience. In addition, he informs the reader that even if he or she is lied about, he or she should not lower themselves to the level of a liar. If he or she is hated, he or she must not become hateful. And finally, the reader should not try to appear to be better than he or she is—morally or spiritually.

Stanza 2: Kipling urges his reader to dream and think but not to get so caught up in dreams and thoughts that the reader loses his grasp on reality.

The word impostor suggests a pretense or disguise. Perhaps he uses this word to showcase the fleeting nature of both: success never stays, nor does disaster. Additionally, he could possibly be suggesting that these two words often come with disruption or change. In any case, the reader should not dwell too much on either triumph or disaster because they will soon disappear. Kipling informs the reader that he or she must be able to endure hearing his or her words being twisted by dishonest and harmful people in order to serve their own agendas. He continues this thought in the last two lines of the stanza.

Stanza 3: The theme in these lines is very similar to the one in the last two lines of the previous stanza: if you lose everything, you must be willing to begin again. Not only that, but you must also be willing to forget about the loss and not dwell on it. The next four lines of the third stanza are also tied together. Next Kipling is imploring the reader to endure, even if it feels both physically (sinew) and emotionally (heart and nerve) impossible. It is also worth noting the capitalization of "Will." Kipling wanted to emphasize the resilience of the human spirit here by making it a power that is separate from the person who possesses it.

Stanza 4: It should not matter with whom the reader is walking; he or she needs to treat the lowest of the low and the highest in a society exactly the same—with kindness. Kipling is reminding his reader that it is important to be able to bounce back from disappointment or pain. One must not dwell on his enemies or the hurt a loved one could potentially cause. Then Kipling gives the reader his last piece of advice, never to give up or waste even a single second of time. If you are given a minute, make sure you use all sixty seconds of it. Finally, in the last two lines, the outcome of abiding by all of these tidbits is revealed: Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

4. Annotate the poem by noticing and labeling any literary devices, figurative language, symbolism, imagery, etc.

Anaphora: The poem shows the use of "If you can" as an anaphora.

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Assonance: The sound of /a/ and /o/ in "If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you" and the sound of /o/ in "And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise."

Alliteration: The sound of /t/ in "talk too" or "treat these two."

Consonance: The sound of /m/ in "If you can dream—and not make dreams your master" and the sound of /s/ in "With sixty seconds' worth of distance run."

Imagery: "With sixty seconds' worth of distance run", "If you can wait and not be tired by waiting" and "If you can dream—and not make dreams your master."

Irony: The advice not being tired by waiting though it is quite tiring, as given in this verse "If you can wait and not be tired by waiting."

Metaphor: Triumph and Disaster, as if they were two persons who are impostors.

Symbolism: The poem shows symbols, such as a dream, triumph, disaster, knave, fool, and risk, to show the different aspects of life.

Diction: The poet uses formal and poetic diction, but it is also conversational in some places.

End Rhyme: The poem has end rhyme such as waiting/hating and lies/wise.

Stanza: There are four stanzas in this poem; with each comprising eight verses, also known as an octave.

Tone: The poem shows a didactic, ironic, and realistic tone.

Symbolism: In the second stanza, knaves symbolize liars, conmen, or other unscrupulous people. In the fourth stanza, crowds symbolize common people, Kings symbolize people of wealth and importance, and the common touch symbolizes humility.

Meter: The poem is written in an iambic pentameter.

- Identify the major theme of the poem. Provide evidence to support your choice.
The importance of being resilient(strong) during times of adversity(hardship). The reader should not let the trials they will encounter during their lives interfere with their personal growth and success. The poem advises young people to trust in their own judgement and to have a belief in themselves even when others doubt them. The poem also encourages the reader to have patience and perseverance to overcome obstacles and setbacks when you encounter them. The poem acknowledges we all have disappointments, but many times success can come from not giving up.
- Identify your favorite line or phrase from the poem. Explain why you chose it as your favorite.
Answers will vary.
- Kipling wrote "If" as advice from a father to his son in 1895. Do Kipling's words of advice inspire you to be a better person? to live with purpose? to believe in the greater good?
Explain your answer. Answers will vary.

Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6-8	Lesson: "If" by Rudyard Kipling, Live with Purpose, A Belief in the Greater Good

Name _____

Theme Word Search Puzzle "If" by: Rudyard Kipling

Z	A	M	O	R	A	L	S	Q	W	S	X	C	D
E	R	F	V	B	D	G	T	P	I	Y	R	H	N
P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E	M	J
E	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	T	T	U	S	K	L
R	P	Q	A	Z	R	W	S	I	E	X	O	C	R
S	U	C	C	E	S	S	W	E	G	D	L	T	S
I	P	L	M	O	I	J	N	N	R	R	V	F	E
S	M	B	D	C	T	Z	A	C	I	D	E	G	L
T	J	L	O	W	Y	R	Y	E	T	I	K	S	C
E	Q	H	U	M	I	L	I	T	Y	A	Z	W	A
N	S	O	B	X	E	T	R	I	A	L	S	E	T
T	T	N	T	G	B	Y	H	N	U	M	J	I	S
P	H	O	V	R	E	S	I	L	I	E	N	T	B
A	M	R	J	S	F	E	M	O	C	R	E	V	O

perseverance	persistent	obstacles	overcome
doubt	integrity	morals	adversity
humility	honor	respect	resilient
patience	success	trials	resolve

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Answer Key

Name _____

Theme Word Search Puzzle "If" by: Rudyard Kipling

Z	A	M	O	R	A	L	S	Q	W	S	X	C	D
E	R	F	V	B	D	G	T	P	I	Y	R	H	N
P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E	M	J
E	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	T	T	U	S	K	L
R	P	Q	A	Z	R	W	S	I	E	X	O	C	R
S	U	C	C	E	S	S	W	E	G	D	L	T	S
I	P	L	M	O	I	J	N	N	R	R	V	F	E
S	M	B	D	C	T	Z	A	C	I	D	E	G	L
T	J	L	O	W	Y	R	Y	E	T	I	K	S	C
E	Q	H	U	M	I	L	I	T	Y	A	Z	W	A
N	S	O	B	X	E	T	R	I	A	L	S	E	T
T	T	N	T	G	B	Y	H	N	U	M	J	I	S
P	H	O	V	R	E	S	I	L	I	E	N	T	B
A	M	R	J	S	F	E	M	O	C	R	E	V	O

perseverance	persistent	obstacles	overcome
doubt	integrity	morals	adversity
humility	honor	respect	resilient
patience	success	trials	resolve

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Suggested Service Project for February

The National Salute to Veteran Patients takes place during the week of February 14 every year. This year, it takes place from February 11 to 17. The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to:

- pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans;
- increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center;
- encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, the more than 9 million Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes. During the National Salute, VA invites individuals, Veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities at the VA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions; photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities and Veteran recognition programs.

The week also provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within the medical center.

Contact your nearest VA Medical Center and ask for Voluntary Service to discover the wonderful things you, your group or organization can do to salute America's Heroes. Locate the facility nearest you.

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THANK YOU
For Your
Service!

