

Unit-1 poetry "IF" - BY Rudyard Kipling summary ⓘ

summary of "If—" by Rudyard Kipling:

Detailed Summary

Rudyard Kipling's poem "If—" is written as a father's advice to his son, explaining the qualities needed to become a mature, honorable, and successful human being. The poem is structured as a series of conditions—beginning with the word "If"—that describe the virtues a person must develop.

The speaker first advises staying calm and composed even when people around you panic or blame you for things. He encourages having self-confidence, but also being humble enough to accept advice and understand others' doubts. Patience is presented as an important virtue: one should keep trying and working even when progress feels slow.

The poem then warns about two dangers: being lied about and being hated. Kipling says that even if others treat you badly, you must not behave like them—you should be honest, kind, and morally firm. He advises balancing dreams and thoughts with reality: it is good to dream and think, but not to let them control your life.

Next, the poem describes how to face success and failure. Kipling calls them "two impostors," meaning that neither should define a person's worth. One must accept both triumph and disaster with equal calmness. The poem also emphasises the value of taking risks—even if you lose everything, you should start again bravely without complaining or giving up.

The speaker further talks about the importance of endurance and determination. Even when the body is exhausted, a strong will can push you forward. The poem encourages maintaining dignity and character when interacting with different kinds of people: staying morally strong among the "crowds," and remaining humble when dealing with powerful individuals like "kings."

Finally, Kipling stresses that one should never let anyone—whether friend or enemy—hurt one's inner strength. You should fill every moment with effort, discipline, and purpose. If a person can achieve all these qualities, they will not only succeed in life but also reach true maturity. This leads to the concluding line: "you'll be a Man, my son!"

UNIT – II

A FELLOW TRAVELLER BY Alfred George Gardiner Summary ⓘ

Summary of "A Fellow Traveller"

In "A Fellow Traveller," A.G. Gardiner narrates a humorous yet thoughtful incident from a train journey. The author is travelling alone when he notices a wasp inside his railway compartment. This wasp becomes his unexpected "fellow traveller."

At first, Gardiner observes the wasp calmly as it flies around the compartment, sits on the window, and moves about harmlessly. He reflects on how human beings often react with fear or anger to small creatures like wasps, even though they usually mean no harm. Instead of killing it, he chooses to watch it with interest and patience.

Throughout the journey, Gardiner describes the wasp's movements in detail—its struggle to get out of the window and its repeated attempts to find freedom. He begins to admire the wasp's persistence and energy. The insect, though tiny, becomes a symbol of determination and the simple vitality of life.

By the end of the journey, Gardiner feels a strange companionship with the wasp. It has made his solitary trip more lively. When the train reaches the station and the wasp finally escapes, he feels a gentle sense of loss, as though a travel partner has departed.

The essay highlights Gardiner's typical style—gentle humour, observation of everyday life, and humanistic understanding. It teaches that even the smallest forms of life can offer meaningful experiences and that kindness and patience are better than fear or violence.

Unit -3,
Fiction:"Girl" by O.Henry Summary 
Girl" - O Henry (Summary):

The very fascinating short story "Girl" written by O Henry is full of suspense and excitement in the way of its narration. It is all about a man, Hartley who persuades a woman, Vivienne to come to his home as a cook.

The short story "Girl" begins when Hartley, the partner of the Robbins and Hartley Brokers was waiting for somebody in his office after the office hours of the day. A mysterious person, probably a private investigator arrived at around half past five and gave him a small piece of torn paper that contained the address of a woman. Of course, Hartley commissioned him to know whereabouts of the woman and her address. Hartley paid him £10 for his service of finding out the address of the woman.

Hartley managed to reach the address of the woman of whom he was searching for, with the help of the address given by the detective. It was a new flat house bearing the name 'The Vallambrosa'. His heart leaped up with excitement as he was going to meet the woman of his choice. The woman who answered to the buzzer was an exceptionally beautiful woman and her name was Vivienne. He persuaded her to accept the proposal that he had made. She was a little hesitant about the situation because she was born and brought up in the city and she was not able to confine to the suburban lifestyle. Hartley promised her and he would give her full freedom that she could go to the city whenever she wanted. Vivienne said that she was confused because another man, Townsend had made her the same promise, but she had not given him any acceptance.

In the middle of their conversation, Townsend pulled in to the porch of the Vallambrosa and proceeded towards Vivienne's place to know her acceptance. However, he was greeted by Hartley in the Hall and told him that it could be good to him to return without meeting Vivienne. So, Townsend had returned with Hartley's serious warnings. Further, Hartley confesses that he will send Heloise, his present cook, who made his family's life miserable being heavy drunkard, away as soon as Vivienne comes home. As Hartley agreed to get rid of Heloise, Vivienne asked him to take her to his home tomorrow.

With great pleasure, Hartley reached his home in Florahurst. In the middle of his way to his beautiful, two storied cottage he met women with jet black braided hair, probably his wife and whispered with her about the happiest news that Vivienne had accepted to come to their house from tomorrow to give her

the best services as a cook. She too felt very happy knowing Vivienne's acceptance as she had already known her art of cooking at Montgomery's house.

Unit-4

Drama : The proposal by Anton chekov Summary

Anton Chekhov's The Proposal is a satirical comedy that exposes the foolishness of people who prioritize pride, property, and ego over genuine relationships. The play begins with Ivan Lomov, a wealthy but hypochondriac neighbor, visiting Stepan Chubukov with the intention of marrying his daughter Natalya Stepanovna. Chubukov is delighted and calls Natalya.

However, before Lomov can express his proposal, the two begin arguing about Oxen Meadows, a small piece of land that both families claim to own. The argument becomes so heated that Lomov becomes physically distressed. Chubukov joins the quarrel and drives Lomov out.

When Chubukov tells Natalya that Lomov came to propose, she panics and demands that he be brought back. When Lomov returns, he tries again to speak about marriage, but they immediately get into another argument—this time about whose dog, Guess or Leap, is superior.

Lomov becomes so agitated that he collapses. Chubukov quickly joins their hands together and announces that they are engaged. Yet even at that moment, the couple continues quarreling. Chekhov uses humor to show how trivial disputes and human stubbornness can overshadow important moments.

Unit-5 Poetry: Invictus by William Earnest Henley

Long Summary

"Invictus," written in 1875 while William Ernest Henley was recovering from a severe illness, expresses the poet's refusal to be defeated by physical pain, fate, or hardships.

Henley was facing the possibility of losing his other leg to amputation, yet the poem shows his unbroken spirit.

The speaker describes being surrounded by darkness ("the night that covers me") but remains grateful for his inner strength. Even though life brings blows ("the fell clutch of circumstance"), he has not cried out in fear. No matter how heavy the challenges ("my head is bloody, but unbowed"), he remains strong.

The poem ends with the famous lines "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul", showing that he believes in self-control, free will, and the human ability to shape one's own destiny despite suffering.

Main Theme

Courage in adversity

Self-determination / personal responsibility

Inner strength despite hardship

Resilience of the human spirit

Defiance against fate or destiny

Explanation (Simple)

Henley says that even though life is full of pain and problems, he refuses to give up. He won't let fate decide everything for him. Instead, he believes he controls how he responds to challenges. His spirit is "unconquered" — that is why the poem is titled *Invictus*, which means "unconquered" in Latin.