Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Question Bank: If

1. Who are called as impostors by the poet? Why?

Ans: Triumph and Defeat are called impostors by the poet. Impostors are the ones who pretend to show false characters. Here, poet teaches us that one should not get swayed away by Triumph nor should one feel depressed by defeat. As they are temporary in nature and one’s circumstances do change.

1. What should one do when all people around us are losing their patience?

Ans: When all people around us are losing their patience, one should still try to maintain their calm and be composed. One should not be tired of waiting and maintain calmness.

1. Which two things must a person do when people all around him doubt him?

Ans: A person should trust himself and make allowance or give space to others for their doubts too.

1. What should we do with dreaming and planning (thoughts)?

Ans: One should not let their dreams overcome them, their dreams should not dominate them and one should think wisely but not make their thoughts as the aim.

1. If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster…….Identify the figure of speech in the given line.

Ans: Antithesis: Opposite meaning words are stated in the same line.

1. According to the poet what happens to the truth that you have spoken sometimes?

Ans: Sometimes the truth is twisted, modified by the knaves to make a trap for fools.

1. The poet has repeated the word ‘if many times in the poem. Discuss the significance

Ans: The word ‘if’ is repeated in the poem as it sets the condition. The condition is to follow those advices given by a father to his son and then he can eventually become a Man (a genuine human being).

1. What is the theme of the poem? Mention sentences or phrases from the poem to support your answer.

Ans: The theme of the poem is to live wisely. The following are the sentences that support the theme.

1. If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you.
2. If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you..
3. If you can dream and not make dreams your master
4. If you can think and not make thoughts your aim
5. If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat these tow impostors just the same.
6. If you can bear to hear the truth you have spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools.
7. If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds’ worth of distance run.
8. What advice does a father wants to give his son through the poem?

Ans: In the poem, a father advises his son to trust his own capability, to be patient with oneself and others, not to be influenced by others shortcomings, not to treat triumph or defeat as something that is permanent. He also advises that one may face loss but one shouldn’t give up and start from scratch if needed with help of ‘the worn-out tools’.

1. The speaker is addressing the son, but is the poem only about a father-son relationship?

Ans: No, although the speaker is addressing the poem to his son, the poem need not be only for a son from father but it can be from any experienced person advising the younger one about life. This poem is an approach to life.