**Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)**

**Paraphrase of the poem ‘IF’**

This poem tells us how to deal with different situations in life, how to be a winner and a good human being. The poem basically gives us certain conditions that we should meet in order to have a successful and meaningful life. And so every sentence begins with ‘if’.

The poet suggests that a person should keep calm and be cool even if others around you are losing their patience, getting angry and blaming at you.

At times in life we have to have a strong sense of faith in ourselves even though others doubt us. And at the same time we should allow them to express their doubt and give importance to their doubt too. We should try to find out the reason behind their doubt.

The next piece of advice is about patience. How one should not be tired of waiting. One should not lie even if others have lied about you.

Sometimes we will meet people who will hate us yet you don’t have to hate them but at the same time you don’t have to show that you are too good or too wise and look artificial. In short one should be expressive but careful too. Not show off or be artificial.

The second stanza starts with an advice how one should dream but one should not become a slave to your own dreams. One should but not necessarily has to make thoughts as your final aim. We should be flexible enough to change our thoughts or dreams and merely follow them blindly.

When in life we face Triumph and Disaster i.e. Victory and Defeat, one should not get deeply affected by it. They are temporary and they will come and go. So treat them with equality.

In life you will face situations where people have twisted and modified the truth that you have said. Such people are knaves and they are trying to set a trap for the fools to fall in and trying to spoil your reputation. At times, we have to watch failure and see what we built crumple down to pieces. At those times, one should rise up by starting from the base or scratch with those in built skills and talent that one possesses.

Finally, the poet suggests that if one can fill every minute that is to live life every moment because time is unforgiving. It will never forgive you and come back. Time lost is time wasted.

If all these conditions are fulfilled, this Earth and everything that is there will belong to you and so what is more is… a person will become perfect.