



## Life\*

*Henry Van Dyke*

Poem

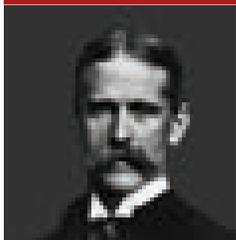


5KWTSX

Let me but live my life from year to year,  
With forward face and unreluctant soul;  
Not hurrying to, nor turning from the goal;  
Not mourning for the things that disappear  
In the dim past, nor holding back in fear  
From what the future veils; but with a whole  
And happy heart, that pays its toll  
To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.

So let the way wind up the hill or down,  
O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy:  
Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,  
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown,  
My heart will keep the courage of the quest,  
And hope the road's last turn will be the best.

## About the Poet



**Henry Van Dyke** (1852 – 1933) was an American author, poet, educator, and clergyman. He served as a professor of English literature at Princeton University between 1899 and 1923. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and received many other honours.



## Glossary

- mourning** (v) - feeling or expressing great sadness
- veils** (v) - to hide or cover something so that you cannot see it clearly or understand it
- crown** (n) - a prize or position offered for being the best
- quest** (n) - a long search for something that is difficult to find
- unreluctant\*** (adj.) - willing to do something (*\*This form is generally not used but the poet has coined it for emphasis*)

### Sonnet

The word **sonnet** is derived from the Italian word “sonetto,” which means a ‘little song’ or ‘small lyric’. In poetry, a sonnet has 14 lines, and is written in ‘iambic pentameter’ (*A line with ten syllables, accented on every second beat*). The first eight lines of a sonnet is known as “octave” and the last six lines is known as “sestet”. Sonnets can be categorized on the basis of their rhyme scheme.

### A. Read the following lines from the poem and answer the questions that follows.

- Let me but live my life from year to year,  
With forward face and unreluctant soul;*
  - Whom does the word ‘me’ refer to?
  - What kind of life does the poet want to lead?
- Not hurrying to, nor turning from the goal;  
Not mourning for the things that disappear*
  - Why do you think the poet is not in a hurry?
  - What should one not mourn for?
- In the dim past, nor holding back in fear  
From what the future veils; but with a whole  
And happy heart, that pays its toll  
To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.*
  - What does the poet mean by the phrase ‘in the dim past’?
  - Is the poet afraid of future?
  - How can one travel on with cheer?





4. *So let the way wind up the hill or down,  
O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy:  
Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,  
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown,*

- a. How is the way of life?
- b. How should be the journey of life?
- c. What did the poet seek as a boy?

5. *My heart will keep the courage of the quest,  
And hope the road's last turn will be the best.*

- a. What kind of quest does the poet seek here?
- b. What is the poet's hope?

6. *In the dim past, nor holding back in fear  
From what the future veils; but with a whole  
And happy heart, that pays its toll  
To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.*

- a. Identify the rhyming words of the given lines.

7. *Let me but live my life from year to year,  
With forward face and unreluctant soul;  
Not hurrying to, nor turning from the goal;  
Not mourning for the things that disappear*

- a. Identify the rhyme scheme of the given lines.

**B. Answer the following question in about 80 – 100 words**

1. Describe the journey of life as depicted in the poem by Henry Van Dyke.

**C. Based on your understanding of the poem, complete the following passage by the using the phrases given in the box.**

youth to old age	up or down the hill	to hurry nor move away	
high adventure	joyful	mourn	looking ahead

The poet wants to live his life \_\_\_\_\_, willing to do something. He neither wants \_\_\_\_\_ from his goal. He does not want to \_\_\_\_\_ the things he has lost, not hold back for fear of the future. He instead prefers to live his life with a whole and happy heart which cheerfully travels from \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, it does not matter to him whether the path goes \_\_\_\_\_, rough or smooth, the journey will be \_\_\_\_\_. He will continue to seek what he wanted as a boy - new friendship, \_\_\_\_\_ and a crown (prize). His heart will remain courageous and pursue his desires. He hopes that every turn in his life's journey will be the best.

Read and Enjoy

## Sea Fever

*John Masefield*

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,  
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;  
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,  
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,  
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

# 3

## I am Every Woman\*

Poem

Rakhi Nariani Shirke

This poem talks about the multifaceted nature of women. Today's women are empowered, brave, strong and resolute. They are always ready to take up new ventures. They are persistent and work tirelessly to prove what they are capable of. Women have to be treated respectfully for the growth of a nation.

A woman is beauty innate,  
A symbol of power and strength.  
She puts her life at stake,  
She's real, she's not fake!

The summer of life she's ready to see in spring.  
She says, "Spring will come again, my dear.  
Let me care for the ones who're near."  
She's The Woman – she has no fear!

Strong is she in her faith and beliefs.  
"Persistence is the key to everything,"  
says she. Despite the sighs and groans and moans,  
She's strong in her faith, firm in her belief!

She's a lioness; don't mess with her.  
She'll not spare you if you're a prankster.  
Don't ever try to saw her pride, her self-respect.  
She knows how to thaw you, saw you – so beware!

She's today's woman. Today's woman, dear.  
Love her, respect her, keep her near...

- Rakhi Nariani Shirke.



### About the author



Rakhi Nariani Shirke is an academican with a passion for writing poems as a medium of self-expression. She is a post graduate, with a Bachelor's degree in Education.



# Glossary

**innate (adj)** - inborn and natural

**stake (n)** - risk

**persistence (n)** - determination

**sigh (v)** - expressing grief

**mess with (p)** - to tease or play a joke

**prankster (n)** - a person who acts mischievous

**groans (v)** - complaints and grumbles

**moans (v)** - grieves

## A. Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. *The summer of life she's ready to see in spring.  
She says, "Spring will come again, my dear  
Let me care for the ones who're near."*

- What does the word summer mean here?
- How does she take life ?
- What does she mean by "spring will come again"?

2. *Strong is she in her faith and belief.  
"Persistence is the key to everything," says she.*

- What is she strong about?
- How does she deal with the adversities in life?

3. *Despite the sighs and groans and moans,  
She's strong in her faith, firm in her belief!*

- Is she complaining about the problems of life?
- Pick out the words that show her grit.

4. *Don't ever try to saw her pride, her self-respect.  
She knows how to thaw you, saw you – so beware!*

- What do the words thaw and saw mean here?
- What is the tone of the author?

5. *She's today's woman. Today's woman dear.  
Love her, respect her, keep her near...*

- Describe today's woman according to the poet.
- How should a woman be treated?



**B. Read the lines and identify the figure of speech.**

<p>1. <i>A woman is beauty innate, A symbol of power and strength. She puts her life at stake, She's real, she's not fake!</i></p>	<p>a) Pick out the rhyming words from the above lines. b) Add another word that rhymes with it. c) Give the rhyme scheme for the above lines.</p>
<p>2. <i>She's a lioness; don't mess with her. She'll not spare you if you're a prankster.</i></p>	<p>a) Pick out the line that has a metaphor in it. b) Give your examples of metaphor to describe the qualities of a woman.</p>
<p>3. <i>She's strong in her faith, firm in her belief.</i></p>	<p>a) Pick out the alliterated words from the above. b) Pick out other alliterated words from the poem.</p>

**C. Fill in with a word in each blanks to complete the summary of the poem. Use the help box given below.**

dignified healthier today's persistent care symbol innate fake adversity  
hope life disgrace prankster woman near faith optimistic quitter thaw  
respect lioness fear beliefs self respect saw strength

Every woman is beautiful \_\_\_\_\_. She is the \_\_\_\_\_ of power and \_\_\_\_\_. She is prone to put her \_\_\_\_\_ at risk. Every woman is true in expressing her love and she is never \_\_\_\_\_. She is very \_\_\_\_\_ in her approach even at times of \_\_\_\_\_ she finds a ray of \_\_\_\_\_ and she continues to \_\_\_\_\_ for her \_\_\_\_\_ ones. She is the \_\_\_\_\_ and she has no \_\_\_\_\_. She is forceful in her \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. She is never a \_\_\_\_\_ and she is \_\_\_\_\_. She is ferocious like a \_\_\_\_\_ it's better for the \_\_\_\_\_ to stay away from her. Never should one try to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to her pride and \_\_\_\_\_ for she knows how to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ them. She is \_\_\_\_\_ woman. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to love her \_\_\_\_\_ her and to keep her \_\_\_\_\_.

**D. Answer the following in a paragraph of about 80 to 100 words.**

1. How are today's women portrayed by the poet?
2. What qualities have made women powerful?

Read and Enjoy

## Still I Rise

By Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise  
I rise  
I rise.

5

## THE SECRET OF THE MACHINES\*

*Rudyard Kipling*

Poem

The poem deals with the problem of modern technology and automation. In the beginning the reader gets informed about how machines are produced and what kind of treatment they need. Afterwards the machines explain how they can serve humanity. The poem ends with the statement that machines, although capable of great deeds, are still nothing more than creations of the human brain.



J7D7LG



We were taken from the ore-bed and the mine,  
We were melted in the furnace and the pit  
We were cast and wrought and hammered to design,  
We were cut and filed and tooled and gauged to fit.

Some water, coal, and oil is all we ask,  
And a thousandth of an inch to give us play:  
And now, if you will set us to our task,  
We will serve you four and twenty hours a day!

We can pull and haul and push and lift and drive,  
We can print and plough and weave and heat and light,  
We can run and race and swim and fly and dive,  
We can see and hear and count and read and write!

But remember, please, the Law by which we live,  
We are not built to comprehend a lie,  
We can neither love nor pity nor forgive,  
If you make a slip in handling us you die!

Though our smoke may hide the Heavens from your eyes,  
It will vanish and the stars will shine again,  
Because, for all our power and weight and size,  
We are nothing more than children of your brain!

*-Rudyard Kipling*

### About the poet



**Rudyard Kipling** was born on December 30, 1865, in Bombay, India. He was educated in England but returned to India in 1882. A decade later, Kipling married Caroline Balestier and settled in Brattleboro, Vermont, where he wrote *The Jungle Book* (1894), among a host of other works that made him hugely successful. Kipling was the recipient of the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature. He died in 1936.





## Glossary

**furnace (n)** – an enclosed structure in which material is heated to very high temperatures

**wrought (adj.)** – beaten out of shape by hammering

**gauge (n)** – an instrument that measures perfection in appearance and quality

**thousandth (adv.)** – a fraction of thousand

**haul (v)** – pull or drag with effort or force

**comprehend(v)** – grasp, understand

**vanish(v)** – disappear suddenly and completely

### A. Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Who does 'we' refer to in first stanza?
  - a. Human beings
  - b. Machines
2. Who are the speakers and listeners of this poem?
3. What metals are obtained from ores and mines? Iron ore
4. Mention a few machines which are hammered to design.
5. Mention the names of a few machines that run on water, coal or oil.
6. Mention a few machines used for pulling, pushing, lifting, driving, printing, ploughing, reading, and writing etc.
7. Are machines humble to accept the evolution of human brain? Why?
8. What feelings are evoked in us by the machines in this poem?
9. '**And a thousandth of an inch to give us play:**'  
Which of the following do the machines want to prove from this line?
  - a. Once Machines are fed with fuel, they take a very long time to start.
  - b. Once Machines are fed with fuel, they start quickly.
10. **And now, if you will set us to our task,  
We will serve you four and twenty hours a day!**
  - a. Who does the pronoun 'you' refer to here?
  - b. Whose task is referred to as 'our task' here?
  - c. Open conditional clause is used in the given line. Why is the future tense 'will set' and 'will serve' used both in the 'if clause' and in the 'main clause'?
  - d. Do the machines serve us twenty four hours a day?
  - e. Rewrite the given lines with the ending '365 days a year.'



## POETIC DEVICES

### 1) Rhythm and rhyme:

#### Rhyme Scheme

Rhyme scheme is a poet's deliberate pattern of lines that rhyme with other lines in a poem or a stanza. The rhyme scheme, or pattern, can be identified by giving end words that rhyme.

But remember, please, the Law by which we **live**, ..... **a**  
We are not built to comprehend a **lie**, ..... **b**  
We can neither love nor pity nor **forgive**, ..... **a**  
If you make a slip in handling us you **die**! ..... **b**

It has a clear rhyming words with a,b,a,b so the rhyming scheme is a,b,a,b.

The rhyme is also clear with the same sound. E.g. pit-fit, ask-task, play-day

### 2) Imagery:

E.g. The descriptions create a picture in the reader's mind

We can see and hear and count and read and write!

The example explains to us the many tasks that could be completed by the machine.

### 3) Personification :

Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing – an idea or an animal – is given human attributes.

E.g. We can pull and haul and push and lift and drive

### 4) Hyperbole:

A figure of speech using exaggeration

E.g. We are greater than the Peoples and the Kings.

### 5) Assonance:

Repetition of two or more vowel sounds

E.g. all we ask

### 6) Simile:

Compare things alike

E.g. Greater than the people of the Kings



### 7) Connotation:

Suggests beyond what it expresses

E.g. Though our smoke may hide the Heavens from your eyes,

### 8) Alliteration:

Repetition of two or more consonant sounds

E.g. We can print and plough and weave and heat and light,

### Activity

**B. Write your favourite stanza from the poem and find the rhyming scheme.**

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**C. Read the poem and find the lines for the following poetic devices or write your own example.**

### Alliteration

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### Assonance

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### Personification

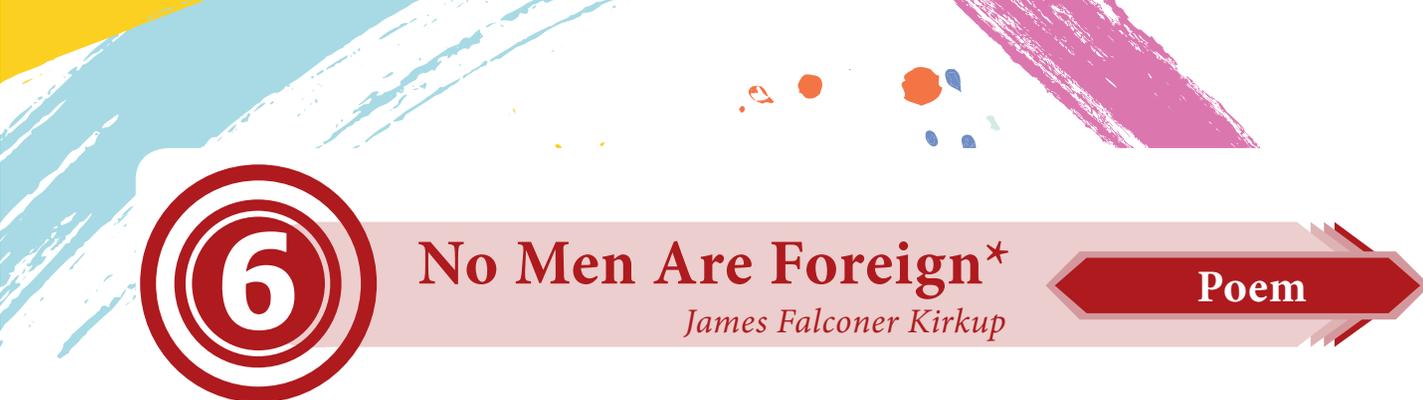
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### Simile

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# 6

## No Men Are Foreign\*

*James Falconer Kirkup*

Poem

Read on the poem to know why we mustn't hate our brethren because they belong to a different country or speak a different language. The poet reminds us of that how all people are similar and part of the brotherhood of men. By the end of the poem we get to know how it is unnatural to fight against ourselves.

Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign  
Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes  
Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon  
Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.  
They, too, aware of sun and air and water,  
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd.  
Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read  
A labour not different from our own.  
Remember they have eyes like ours that wake  
Or sleep, and strength that can be won  
By love. In every land is common life  
That all can recognise and understand.  
Let us remember, whenever we are told  
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves  
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.  
Remember, we who take arms against each other  
It is the human earth that we defile.  
Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence  
Of air that is everywhere our own,  
Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.



## About the author



**James Falconer Kirkup** (1918-2009) born James Harold Kirkup, was an English poet, translator and travel writer. He wrote over 30 books, including autobiographies, novels and plays. Kirkup wrote his first book of poetry, *The Drowned Sailor at the Downs*, which was published in 1947. His home town of South Shields now holds a growing collection of his works in the Central Library, and artefacts from his time in Japan are housed in the nearby Museum. His last volume of poetry was published during the summer of 2008 by Red Squirrel Press, and was launched at a special event at Central Library in South Shields.



## Glossary

**Condemn** - express complete disapproval

**Labour** - hardwork

**Betray** - disloyal

**Defile** - damage the purity or appearance

**Outrage** - extremely strong reaction of anger, shock

**Based on the understanding of the poem, read the following lines and answer the questions given below.**

1. *Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes  
Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon  
Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.*

- What is found beneath all uniforms?
- What is same for every one of us?
- Where are we all going to lie finally?

2. *They, too, aware of sun and air and water,  
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd.*

- What is common for all of us?
- How are we fed?
- Mention the season referred here?





3. *Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read  
A labour not different from our own.*
- Who does 'their' refer to?
  - What does the poet mean by 'lines we read'?
  - What does not differ?
4. *Let us remember, whenever we are told  
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves  
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.*
- Who tells us to hate our brothers?
  - What happens when we hate our brothers?
  - What do we do to ourselves?
5. *Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence  
Of air that is everywhere our own,  
Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.*
- What outrages the innocence?
  - Who are not foreign?
  - What is not strange?

### Literary devices:

#### Transferred Epithet

A transferred epithet is a figure of speech where an adjective or epithet describing a noun is transferred from the noun it is meant to describe to another noun in the sentence. In the lines, They, too, aware of sun and air and water,

Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd. "starv'd" is an epithet which is placed beside the noun 'winter'. However, it does not describe the 'winter' as being starved, but describes the pronoun 'they'. Historically many wars were fought during the winter, while the harvest season was essentially peaceful. 'They' refers to the soldiers in uniform who had to starve during winter while fighting for their land.

e.g., Winter starv'd – transferred epithet

#### Metaphor

A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. Recorded from the late 15th century, the word comes via French and Latin from Greek metaphora, from metapherein 'to transfer'.

e.g., Hells of fire - metaphor

#### Repetition

Poets often repeat single words or phrases, lines, and sometimes, even whole stanzas at intervals to create a musical effect; to emphasize a point; to draw the readers' attention or to lend unity to a piece. In "No Men are Foreign" James Kirkup repeats the word 'Remember' five times in the poem to emphasize the



serious message the poem has to convey. Similarly, the last line of the last stanza (“Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange”) though reversed, is the same as the first line of the first stanza (“Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign”). This repetition emphasizes the core message of the oneness of mankind.

**Based on your understanding of the poem complete the following by choosing the appropriate words/phrases given in brackets:**

This poem is about the ..... of all men. The subject of the poem is the .....race, despite of the difference in colour , caste, creed , religion , country etc. All human beings are same. We walk on the ..... and we will be buried under it. Each and everyone of us are related to the other . We all are born same and die in the same way. We may wear different uniforms like’ .....,’ during wars the opposing side will also have the same

..... like ours. We as human do they same labour with .....and look at the world with the..... Waging war against others as they belong to a different country is like attacking our own selves. It is the .....we impair. We all share the same..... We are similar to each other. So the poet concludes that we shouldn’t have wars as it is .....to fight against us.

(unity of human, dreams and aspirations, same land, our hands, unnatural, breathing body, same eyes, brotherhood, language, human earth)

**Based on your understanding of the poem answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 100-150 words.**

1. What is the central theme of the poem ‘*No men are foreign*’?
2. The poem ‘*No men are foreign*’ has a greater relevance in todays world. Elucidate.