Rudyard Kipling

- Kipling (1865-1936), born in Bombay
- 1907 Nobel Prize for Literature—youngest recipient ever (and first writer in English)
- Roger Kimball: “The poet laureate of civilization”
Rudyard Kipling

- Kipling’s poetry is an affirmation of morality, virtue, and ideals—in the face of cynicism
- He sees that cynicism as a threat to civilization
Rudyard Kipling

- “Kipling believed civilization to be something laboriously achieved which was only precariously defended. He wanted to see the defenses fully manned and he hated the liberals because he thought them gullible and feeble, believing in the easy perfectibility of man and ready to abandon the work of centuries for sentimental qualms.” (Evelyn Waugh)
Kipling’s Themes

- Fragility of civilization
- Civilization rests on trust, unity of purpose, willingness to use violence
Kipling’s Themes

• “Kipling’s grasp of function, of who protects whom, is very sound. He sees clearly that men can only be highly civilized while other men, inevitably less civilized, are there to guard and feed them.”—George Orwell
Orwell

“Those who ‘abjure’ violence can do so only because others are committing violence on their behalf.”
Tommy

- Yes, makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while you sleep
- Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation cheap;
- An' hustlin' drunken soldiers when they're goin' large a bit
- Is five times better business than paradin' in full kit.
- Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy, 'ow's yer soul?"
- But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll.
Kipling’s Themes

• The importance and fragility of social capital
Social Capital

- Social networks and associated norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness
Social Capital

- Francis Fukuyama: “the ability of people to work together for common purposes in groups and organizations”
- “the existence of a certain set of informal values or norms shared among members of a group that permit cooperation among them”
Social Capital

- Robert Putnam: “features of social organization such as networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit”
Social Capital

- Forms of social capital:
  - at the University?
  - in your home town?
Unity, Trust: Together

• When King and People understand each other past a doubt,

• It takes a foe and more than a foe to knock that country out;

• For the one will do what the other required as soon as the need is shown;

• And hand in hand they can make a stand which neither could make alone!
Together

- It is nor wealth, nor talk, nor trade, nor schools, nor even the Vote,
- Will save your land when the enemy's hand is tightening round your throat.
- But a King and a People who thoroughly trust each other in all that is done
- Can sleep on their bed without any dread--for the world will leave 'em alone!
Kipling’s Themes

• The first virtue of civilization is to *survive*
The Law of the Jungle

• Now this is the Law of the Jungle -- as old and as true as the sky;

• And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the Wolf that shall break it must die.

• As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk the Law runneth forward and back --

• For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.
Kipling’s Themes

- Moral complexity: virtue requires tradeoffs, difficult judgments, courage
Kipling’s Themes

- Moral complexity: virtue requires tradeoffs, difficult judgments, courage
- Deplores the two-level conception: champions common people, especially soldiers, against the intellectuals
Examples of Trade-offs
Conception of Virtue

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!
Moral complexity: If

- 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

- 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 imposters 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

• 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

• 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!
Kipling’s Conception of Virtue
The Gods of the
Copybook Headings

Excellence is consistently placed beyond the reach of indolence, but
as soon as in the second industry and that willingness may be associated
with docility and diligence.


There can be no such intemperate
and kind furnishing of means that
exempt us from the task and duty of
doing any one of these endeavors. Most
natural honors, was not given to be used in slightest, but to be
grafted on. — Coleridge

There is no power in the wisdom of
the scribines.

Young persons especially, will have the
conscience, that in no way perhaps, can
the state of sublime knowledge, he
more certainly, and that it finds itself
impartially, imbued, from by habitually
reading with a pen in the hand — there
is such good sense in the largest
scribbles. by which we are indebted to
no one who thinks.

****

In reading, as in life, when you fail
your purpose, put effort on your mind,
which you may have seen. To think in a correct manner
one must correct with the right.


When any calamity has been suffered, the first query to be made here is, the same
has been correct.

Dr. Johnson
The Gods of the Copybook Headings

• AS I PASS through my incarnations in every age and race,

• I make my proper prostrations to the Gods of the Market Place.

• Peering through reverent fingers I watch them flourish and fall,

• And the Gods of the Copybook Headings, I notice, outlast them all.
We were living in trees when they met us. They showed us each in turn

That Water would certainly wet us, as Fire would certainly burn:

But we found them lacking in Uplift, Vision and Breadth of Mind,

So we left them to teach the Gorillas while we followed the March of Mankind.
The Gods of the Copybook Headings

- We moved as the Spirit listed. They never altered their pace,
- Being neither cloud nor wind-borne like the Gods of the Market Place,
- But they always caught up with our progress, and presently word would come
- That a tribe had been wiped off its icefield, or the lights had gone out in Rome.
The Gods of the Copybook Headings

• With the Hopes that our World is built on they were utterly out of touch,

• They denied that the Moon was Stilton; they denied she was even Dutch;

• They denied that Wishes were Horses; they denied that a Pig had Wings;

• So we worshipped the Gods of the Market Who promised these beautiful things.
The Gods of the Copybook Headings (1919)

• When the Cambrian measures were forming, They promised perpetual peace.

• They swore, if we gave them our weapons, that the wars of the tribes would cease.

• But when we disarmed They sold us and delivered us bound to our foe,

• And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "Stick to the Devil you know."
The Islanders (1902)

- Fenced by your careful fathers, ringed by your leaden seas,
- Long did ye wake in quiet and long lie down at ease;
- Till Ye said of Strife, "What is it?" of the Sword, "It is far from our ken";
- Till ye made a sport of your shrunken hosts and a toy of your armed men.
- Ye stopped your ears to the warning---ye would neither look nor heed---
- Ye set your leisure before their toil and your lusts above their need.
The Gods of the Copybook Headings

• On the first Feminian Sandstones we were promised the Fuller Life

• (Which started by loving our neighbour and ended by loving his wife)

• Till our women had no more children and the men lost reason and faith,

• And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "The Wages of Sin is Death."
“The future belongs to those who show up for it.”
The Gods of the Copybook Headings

- In the Carboniferous Epoch we were promised abundance for all,

- By robbing selected Peter to pay for collective Paul;

- But, though we had plenty of money, there was nothing our money could buy,

- And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "If you don't work you die."
The Gods of the Copybook Headings

• Then the Gods of the Market tumbled, and their smooth-tongued wizards withdrew

• And the hearts of the meanest were humbled and began to believe it was true

• That All is not Gold that Glitters, and Two and Two make Four

• And the Gods of the Copybook Headings limped up to explain it once more.
WALL ST. IN PANIC AS STOCKS CRASH

ATTEMPT MADE TO KILL ITALY'S CROWN PRINCE

ASSASSIN CAUGHT IN BRUSSELS MOB;
PRINCE UNHURT

Hollywood Fire Destroys Films Worth Millions

FEAR 52 PERISHED IN LAKE MICHIGAN;
FERRY IS MISSING

PIECE OF PLANE LIKE DITEMAN'S IS FOUND AT SEA

High Duty Group Gave $700,000 to Coolidge Drive

Grundy Agrees Rates Went Up Due to His Activities as Propagandist; Favors More Lobbying to 'Carry Out Voters' Wish'

FOR MORE LOBBYISTS

CARNEGIE CHARGE OF PAID ATHLETES

Hoover's Train Halts by Auto

Warder Sought to Keep Sea Trip

SOMERS NAMED AS HEAD OF NEW
The Crash of ’87

Stocks Plunge 508.32 Amid Panicky Selling

NEW YORK — The stock market crashed yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted an astonishing 508.32 points, or 22.6%, to 1738.42. The drop far exceeded the 12.8% decline on the notorious day of Oct. 28, 1929, which is generally considered the start of the Great Depression.

Panic-driven trading on the New York Stock Exchange reached 604,801,000
Bailout Plan Rejected, Markets Plunge, Forcing New Scramble to Solve Crisis

By Sarah Luck, Damian Paletta and Greg Hitt

WASHINGTON—The House of Representatives defeated the White House's historic $700 billion financial-rescue package—a stunning turn of events that sent the stock market into a tailspin and added to concerns that the U.S. faces a prolonged recession if the legislation isn't revived.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average sustained its biggest point drop in history and its biggest closing decline since the day the markets re-opened after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The Dow, which had opened sharply lower on fears of more possible bank failures, finished the day down 7%, with a 777.68 point drop to 10365.95. Losses to shares on the broader Dow Jones Wilshire 5000 index amounted, on paper, to $1.2 trillion—eclipsing the size of the proposed bailout package. The Nasdaq Stock Market finished down 9.3%.

The widely watched VIX index, a measure of market volatility often called "the fear index," closed at its highest levels in its 28-year history. In early trading...
The Gods of the Copybook Headings

- As it will be in the future, it was at the birth of Man --
- There are only four things certain since Social Progress began --
- That the Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire,
- And the burnt Fool's bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the Fire --
• And that after this is accomplished, and the brave new world begins

• When all men are paid for existing and no man must pay for his sins

• As surely as Water will wet us, as surely as Fire will burn

• The Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter return!