

IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Warm up

Look at this image



1. What is the man trying to do?
2. Do you think he is doing the job easily?
3. What is the difficulty?
4. How can he make his job easier?
5. Have you ever faced difficulties? Talk about your difficulty.

Vocabulary

scoffed: to mock, make fun of, or jeer at someone

prophecy: to predict the future

assail: to attack someone or something

quiddit: a slight objection or criticism

perseverance: continuing to do something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

demeanour: outward behaviour; attitude or manner

resignation: acceptance of something that is not very nice that has happened, or about to happen;

giving up or surrendering

indifference: lack of interest, concern, or sympathy

grit: courage and resolve; strength of character;

trace: a very small quantity

For the mentor to explain to the mentee

Buckle in: (phrasal verb) To prepare oneself mentally or emotionally for a challenge or task.

It Couldn't Be Done

BY EDGAR ALBERT GUEST

Somebody said that it couldn't be done

 But he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one

 Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

 On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

 That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

A. Fill in the blanks to write the summary of the poem

Once upon a time, there was a person who wanted to do something really hard. Everyone said it _____ be done. But this person _____ give up. The person smiled and

started working on it. Even though others laughed and said it was _____, this person kept going. And guess what? They did it! The lesson is to never _____ even when things seem tough.

- B. Choose the most appropriate answer.
1. What is the main message of the poem?
 - a. It is important to listen to others' advice.
 - b. One should never attempt something difficult.
 - c. Perseverance and determination can lead to success.
 - d. It is better to avoid challenges.
 2. How did the person in the poem respond to those who said it could not be done?
 - a. he gave up
 - b. he laughed at them
 - c. he tried anyway
 - d. he asked for help
 3. What did the person do when others scoffed at the idea of achieving the impossible?

- a. he laughed with them
 - b. he proved them wrong
 - c. he agreed with them
 - e. he gave up
4. According to the poem, what attitude should you have when facing a seemingly impossible task?
- a. confidence
 - b. revenge
 - c. give up without trying
 - d. fear
5. What does the phrase "Just buckle in" mean in the context of the poem?
- a. prepare to leave
 - b. get ready to face a challenge
 - c. give up
 - d. laugh at the challenge

C. Answer in one sentence.

1. How does the person in the poem tackle the things that "cannot be done"?
2. According to the poem, what do the "thousands" do about "things that cannot be done"?

3. What is the significance of starting to sing while starting the difficult task in the poem?
4. What can you guess about the person in the poem based on his actions?
5. How does the person's behaviour change as he starts work on the impossible task in the poem?

D. Answer the question.

Alliteration is a literary device in which certain sounds are repeated at the beginning of words in a sentence or phrase. Tick the sentences that use alliteration.

The poet has used alliteration in the following lines. For example: *Somebody said* that it couldn't be done.

- a. On his face. If he worried he hid it.
- b. He started to sing as he tackled the thing.
- c. Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;

E. The poem follows the rhyming scheme of 'ababcdcd'.

Write the correct letters against the lines.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done (A)

But he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
(A)

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it!