“On Quitting” by Eddie Guest

How much grit do you think you've got?

Can you quit a thing that you like a lot?

You may talk of pluck; it's an easy word,

And where'er you go it is often heard;

But can you tell to a jot or guess

Just how much courage you now possess?

You may stand to trouble and keep your grin,

But have you tackled self-discipline?

Have you ever issued commands to you

To quit the things that you like to do,

And then, when tempted and sorely swayed,

Those rigid orders have you obeyed?

Don't boast of your grit till you've tried it out,

Nor prate to men of your courage stout,

For it's easy enough to retain a grin

In the face of a fight there's a chance to win,

But the sort of grit that is good to own

Is the stuff you need when you're all alone.

How much grit do you think you've got?

Can you turn from joys that you like a lot?

Have you ever tested yourself to know

How far with yourself your will can go?

If you want to know if you have grit,

Just pick out a joy that you like, and quit.

It's bully sport and it's open fight;

It will keep you busy both day and night;

For the toughest kind of a game you'll find

Is to make your body obey your mind.

And you never will know what is meant by grit

Unless there's something you've tried to quit.

On Quitting

1. What is the internal rhyme in the first stanza?

2. Which line in the first stanza best represents the central idea?

3. What does “prate” mean in the second stanza?

4. What technique is used to establish rhythm and emphasize the theme?

5. According to the speaker, how can you know if you have enough self-control?

6. How does this poem relate to typical New Year’s Resolutions?

“See it Through” by Eddie Guest

When you're up against a trouble,

Meet it squarely, face to face;

Lift your chin and set your shoulders,

Plant your feet and take a brace.

When it's vain to try to dodge it,

Do the best that you can do;

You may fail, but you may conquer,

See it through!

Black may be the clouds about you

And your future may seem grim,

But don't let your nerve desert you;

Keep yourself in fighting trim.

If the worst is bound to happen,

Spite of all that you can do,

Running from it will not save you,

See it through!

Even hope may seem but futile,

When with troubles you're beset,

But remember you are facing

Just what other men have met.

You may fail, but fall still fighting;

Don't give up, whate'er you do;

Eyes front, head high to the finish.

See it through!

See it Through

7. What is the rhyme scheme of lines 1-4?

8. What does vain mean in line 5?

9. What metaphor is used for the troublesome times in life in stanza 2?

10. What does futile mean in stanza 3?

11. What does beset mean?

12. What is the alliteration in the third stanza?

13. Contrast the central idea of “On Quitting” with “See it Through.”