

## Poetry

### Lesson 6. The Wonderful Words

#### Summary of the poem

The poet says that everyone speaks to express his thought. She further says that one must not let his thoughts die if he does not know how to express them. English is a wonderful language and people can learn it to express their thoughts effectively.

One should always look for better words to express his feelings. There are many thoughts in our heads and they should be conveyed properly. The thoughts should come out clearly. There are many lovely things which remain untold and should be conveyed.

The poet says that the words are very important to convey thoughts. Everyone wants to hear good and beautiful thoughts and only words can free those thoughts from our mind. The poet compares our mind with a prison which holds our thoughts. There might be a wonderful thoughts in one's mind and it needs to be conveyed.

#### Stanza wise Explanation of The poem

#### Stanza 1

Never let a thought shrivel and die

For want of a way to say it

For English is a wonderful game

And all of you can play it.

All that you do is match the words

To the brightest thoughts in your head

So that they come out clear and true

And handsomely groomed and fed-

For many of the loveliest things

Have never yet been said.

**Reference:** The above lines have been taken from the poem 'The Wonderful Words'. It has been written by Mary O' Neill.

**Context:** The poet speaks about the importance of expressing our thoughts.

**Explanation:** The poet says that one must not let his thoughts die if he does not know how to express them. English is a good language and people can learn it to express his feelings by selecting appropriate words.

There are many thoughts in our heads and they should be conveyed properly. The thoughts should come out clearly and truly. Words should be weaved properly to make meaningful sentences. There are many lovely things which remain untold and should be conveyed.

## Stanza 2

Words are the food and dress of thought

They give it its body and swing

And everyone's longing today to hear

Some fresh and beautiful thing;

But only words can free a thought

From its prison behind your eyes

May be your mind is holding now

A marvellous new surprise!

**Reference:** Same as in stanza 1

**Context:** The poet talks about the importance of words as a medium to convey messages.

**Explanation:** The poet says that words are very important tool to convey thoughts and messages. Words are food to nurture our thoughts. Everyone wants to hear good and beautiful thoughts and only words can free those thoughts from one's mind. The poet compares our mind with a prison which holds our thoughts. There might be a wonderful thoughts in one's mind and it can be conveyed only with the help of words.

Working with the poem

1. With your partner, complete the following sentences in your own words using the ideas in the poem.

- (i) Do not let a thought shrivel and die because .....
- (ii) English is a ..... With words that everyone can play.
- (iii) One has to match .....
- (iv) Words are the ..... of thoughts.

Ans.

- (i) You don't know how to say it
- (ii) Wonderful game
- (iii) Words to the brightest thoughts in one's head
- (iv) Food and dress.

2. In groups of four discuss the following lines and their meanings.

- (i) **All that you do is match the words  
To the brightest thoughts in your head**

You have to look for proper and accurate words to convey your thoughts in a beautiful way.

- (ii) **For many of the loveliest things  
Have never yet been said**

There are many beautiful and lovely things which are still untold. They need to be told with the help of proper words.

- (iii) **And everyone's longing today to hear  
Some fresh and beautiful thing**

Everyone wants to hear something fresh and beautiful. If there is anything exciting, thousands of people would want to listen to it.

- (iv) **But only words can free a thought  
From its prison behind your eyes**

Mind is full of thousands of ideas and thoughts. Only proper words could liberate them from our mind.

## Chapter Practice

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Why did the poet say that "English is a wonderful game"?**

English is a wonderful game because we can play with words frame them in such a way as to convey desired message.

2. **Who can liberate thoughts from our mind?**

Words can liberate thoughts from our mind. Thoughts and ideas are being held captive in our mind.

3. **What has not been said yet according to the poem?**

Many lovely things have not been said yet and they need to be conveyed in a beautiful way.

4. **Where can we find a new surprise?**

We can find a marvelous new surprise in our mind.

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### Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Do you think words are the food and dress of thoughts? Give a reason to support your answer.**

Yes, words are the food and dress of our thoughts because without them thoughts have no identity and meaning.

Only words can express our feelings which we can convey to others. Thoughts will remain captive in mind in the absence of words.

2. **What does the poet say about human thoughts?**

The poet says that one must not let his thoughts die if he does not know how to express them. One should always express his thoughts with the help of appropriate words.

One should always convey his feelings clearly and truly without least hesitation.

### Value Based Questions

**Justify the title 'The Wonderful Words' !**

The title of the poem is justifiable because the poet has given the importance of words which are vital in order to convey messages or thoughts. They are the best means to express thoughts and to take out them from our mind.

In order to convey thought in a beautiful way there is a need to look for proper and accurate words. Thousands of thoughts which are imprisoned in the mind can find way only through the magic of language. Hence, they are wonderful, amazing.

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### Extract Based Questions

#### Extract 1

**Directions (Q. Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.**

Words are the food and dress of thought

They give it its body and swing

And everyone's longing today to hear

Some fresh and beautiful thing;

But only words can free a thought

From its prison behind your eyes

May be your mind is holding now

A marvellous new surprise!

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**1. What do people want to hear?**

People want to hear fresh and beautiful thoughts. They have a desire to hear such things.

**2. What did the poet want to convey through this poem?**

The poet wants to convey the importance of expressing our thoughts with the help of appropriate words.

**3. What does the poet want to say through "prison behind your eyes"?**

The poet wanted to refer to our mind. She said that only words have the power to liberate thoughts from our mind.

**4. Give synonym for the word 'prison'.**

- (a) House (b) Jail (c) Class (d) Mind  
(b) Jail

**5. Write antonym for the word 'new'.**

- (a) Old (b) Word (c) Longing (d) Surprise  
(a) Old

**6. People always want**

- (a) To hear beautiful things  
(b) To be sad  
(c) To transform others  
(d) To fight with others.  
(a) To hear beautiful things

**Extract 2**

**Directions (Q. Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.**

Never let a thought shrivel and die  
For want of a way to say it  
For English is a wonderful game  
And all of you can play it.

All that you do is match the words  
To the brightest thoughts in your head  
So that they come out clear and true  
And handsomely groomed and fed-

For many of the loveliest things

Have never yet been said.

**1. What kind of a language is English according to the poet?**

According to the poet, English is a wonderful language.

**2. What is the poet not asking us to do?**

Poet is not asking us to let our thoughts die, she is asking us to say whatever we have in our mind.

**3. What does the poet mean by 'English is a wonderful game' and all of you can play it?**

The poet here means that 'English is a wonderful language and everybody can use this language.

**4. Write the antonym for 'wonderful'.**

- (a) Horrible
- (b) Beautiful
- (c) Graceful
- (d) Scary
- (a) Horrible

**5. Write the synonym 'shrivel'.**

- (a) Shrink    (b) Shed    (c) Shave    (d) Sink
- (a) Shrink

**6. Write the meaning for 'prison behind you eyes'.**

- (a) Mind    (b) Eyes    (c) Brain    (d) Mouth
- (a) Mind



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