

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 6: THE WONDERFUL WORDS



THE WONDERFUL WORDS

~Summary~

-by Mary Devenport O'Neill

The poem "**The Wonderful Words**", by **Mary O'Neill** talks about the **importance of language** in **communicating** with other people. Words help to bring thoughts into reality. The poet says that one must **not hold back** his/her **thoughts**, just because of the **difficulty** of putting it into words. If thoughts are held back, they tend to **fade** away and **die** permanently.

O'Neill says that the **best language** to put one's thoughts into words is **English**. English is **compared** to a **game** where one has to just **match** their **thoughts** with the **related words** in the language. By doing so, it is easy to make one's thoughts **clear** and **understandable**. There are a lot of **unsaid things** in the world which exists for the time being as mere thoughts. If these thoughts are given a **form**, then it would be an even **better place**. Just like how humans need basic essentials like **food** and **clothing** to survive, **thoughts** need **words** to put them into **action**. Words also have the power to change any situation.

Every individual longs to listen to a **kind word**. Kind words have the **power** to **alter** someone else's life, even if we do not realize it. Therefore only **words** can **free** the thoughts that are stagnated at the back of one's mind. Words are wonderful since it **transforms** thoughts to **reality**.

~Conclusion~

The poet says that English is an interesting language so everybody should read or learn it. Appropriate words are required to express thoughts but words must match. It will help you to express ideas clearly, beautifully and effectively. In lack of appropriate words many ideas are not expressed.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 83) (Working With the Poem)

Question 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 thought.

Answer:

- i. you do not know how to say it.
- ii. wonderful game
- iii. the words to the brightest thoughts in one's head.
- iv. food and dress

Question 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
- ii. For many of the loveliest things
Have never yet been said
- iii. And everyone's longing today to hear
Some fresh and beautiful thing
- iv. But only words can free a thought

From its prison behind your eyes

Answer:

- i. The given lines mean that when someone has a thought in one's head and does not know how to say it, one should just use English words to pick the most accurate words that express one's thought in the best possible way.
- ii. Through these lines, the poet says that there are so many beautiful things that have never been written. It is wrong to perceive that everything that is good, has already been said by someone or the other.
- iii. A fresh thought or idea is always welcomed by people as everyone is waiting for it.
- iv. The human mind is a huge treasure where all the thoughts and ideas take birth. To express those thoughts or ideas, only words can help.