

Words



Reflect and Respond

- I Why are words important? Can we communicate without words? How? Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.
- II Use the given sentences as clues to find words from the grid and fill the blanks. One example has been done for you.

My mother summoned me to introduce her friends.

Column 1 Horizontal →	Column 2 Vertical ↓
1. We eat food to _____ our hunger.	4. The view from the top of the hill was _____ the difficult climb.
2. The train will _____ from the station at 5.00 p.m.	5. The herbs and spices _____ flavour to food.
3. The gardener was removing the _____ to clean the flower beds.	6. Flowers _____ in spring.
	7. We enjoyed a delicious _____ after the ceremony.

If words could satisfy the chest,
The world might hold a feast;
But words, when summoned to the test,
Oft satisfy the least!

Like plants that make a gaudy show,
All blossom to the root;
But whose poor nature cannot grow,
One particle of fruit!

CHARLES SWAIN



Check Your Understanding

- I Fill in the blanks with one word from the poem. One example has been done for you.

In this poem, the poet reflects that words fail to truly satisfy what the heart wants to convey. Words are compared to summer birds who 1. _____, leaving nothing behind. The heart, is equated to a 2. _____ who finds that words are as worthless as 3. _____ when needed. He feels that a few sincere words can bring more 4. _____ than many meaningless ones. He adds that a voice that brings happiness to a 5. _____ place does not say much, but the few words it does, are very precious. Moreover, if words could satisfy us, the 6. _____ would celebrate but words often fail to do that. The poem ends on the note that empty words may look impressive with lots of flowers, but they cannot produce anything valuable, like a 7. _____.

- II Let us appreciate the poem.

1. Read the poem again. Find any four sets of rhyming words and also write the rhyme scheme of the poem.
2. Read the following phrases and sentences taken from the poem. Identify the poetic device in each of them and explain what the poet wants to communicate through their usage.



- (i) But words, like summer birds, depart...
- (ii) heart, a pilgrim upon earth...
- (iii) words are of as little worth
As just so many weeds
- (iv) If words could satisfy the chest... Oft satisfy
the least!
- (v) The world might hold a feast...
- (vi) Like plants that make a gaudy show
All blossom to the root
- (vii) But whose poor nature cannot grow
One particle of fruit!

3. Which words are repeated in the poem? Why does the poet use repetition?
4. The stanzas 4, 5, and 6 end with exclamation marks. Choose the option that displays the emotions being expressed through them.

- (i) 4. disillusionment 5. admiration and
6. frustration
- (ii) 4. frustration 5. admiration and
6. disillusionment
- (iii) 4. admiration 5. frustration and
6. disillusionment
- (iv) 4. frustration 5. disillusionment and
6. admiration

III Identify examples of hyperbole from the given lines.

*If words could satisfy the chest,
The world might hold a feast.*

Work in pairs. Complete the sentences given below with hyperboles. Use the hints given in the brackets.

1. I have _____ things to do on this weekend.
(lots of/tonnes of)

Words

223





2. The player missed the basket by _____. (a mile/ an inch)
3. My mother is so tired that she can sleep for a _____. (night/decade)
4. I will be back in _____. (five minutes/two seconds)

IV Rhythm gives a lyrical quality to a poem. The rhythm (pattern of beats) in a line of poetry is described by a metrical form. A metre is formed by a stressed and an unstressed syllable. Syllable is the name given to a single unit of speech/beats of spoken language.

The metrical form in the first four lines is given below. The stressed syllables have been underlined.

If words could sa tis fy the heart,
The heart might find less care;
But words, like sum mer birds, de part,
And leave but emp ty air.

Now, listen to the teacher read the poem. As you listen, underline the syllables that are stressed in all the lines of the poem. Share your answers with the teacher.



Critical Reflection

I Read the following lines and answer the questions.

1. *The heart, a pilgrim upon earth,
Finds often, when it needs,
That words are of as little worth
As just so many weeds.*
 - (i) Why has the poet referred to the heart as 'a pilgrim'?
 - (ii) When would a heart 'need' words?
 - (iii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The words are like weeds because _____.



(iv) Mention two emotions the heart might be experiencing when it finds words to be of 'little worth'.

(v) What do these lines suggest about the nature of communication?

2. *If words could satisfy the chest,
The world might hold a feast;
But words, when summoned to the test,
Oft satisfy the least!*

(i) How can words 'satisfy the chest'?

(ii) How can words be 'summoned to the test'?

(iii) What does 'the world' holding 'a feast' imply?

(iv) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The poet mentions that words satisfy the least because _____.

(v) Select the word that does not mean the same as 'oft'.

A. always

B. usually

C. frequently

D. often

II Answer the following questions.

1. What is the comparison that the poet draws between words and 'empty air'?

2. According to the poet meaningful words are more precious than a lot of them. Explain.

3. Do you agree that the poet presents contrasting ideas related to 'words' in the poem? If yes, why? If no, why not?

4. The theme of loneliness hovers over the poem. Support this statement with examples from the text.

5. How does the poet convey the superficial nature of words? What ought to be done to address this?

Words

225





Vocabulary in Context

- I The poet has used some figurative phrases. Match the phrases in Column 1 with their correct meanings in Column 2. Use each phrase in a sentence of your own.

Column 1	Column 2
1. satisfy the heart	(i) many words
2. depart and leave but empty air	(ii) cheers up a person
3. hosts of words	(iii) there is no outcome
4. never touch the heart	(iv) makes one happy
5. wins its sunny way	(v) does not appeal to our emotions
6. plants that cannot grow fruit	(vi) makes no impact

- II Create a 'Word Map' for each of the words from the poem given in the box.

depart	pilgrim	cheer	word
sunny	satisfy	heart	

To complete the word map include:

- ✿ Meaning (in your own words)
- ✿ Synonyms of the word
- ✿ Antonyms of the word
- ✿ Sentence using the word
- ✿ A quick sketch or symbol that represents the word

One example has been done for you.



Word: cheer

Meaning: to give a loud shout of approval or encouragement

Synonym: comfort

Antonym: sadden

Sentence: The audience cheered her for great performance.

Sketch: Picture of sunshine, sunflower, or a smiling face



Listen and Respond

- I You will listen to a conversation between a girl and a boy. As you listen, mark four statements from 1–6 that are true. (Transcript for teacher on page 273)
1. The girl was excited to participate in the declamation contest.
 2. The boy was doubtful about the suitability of the topic chosen for the contest.
 3. The girl explained that people prefer to keep their personal experiences to themselves.
 4. The boy was unaware of the role played by body language in reflecting the speaker's confidence.
 5. According to the girl, body language had an insignificant role to play in communication.
 6. The girl had issued the book on body language earlier from the library.



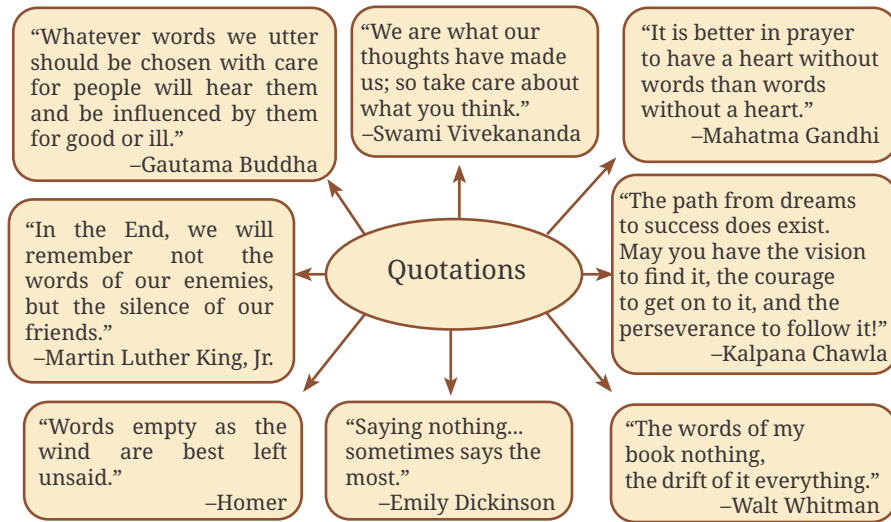
Speaking Activity

- I Read the following quotations and select the one you like the most. Explain the quotation and share the reason for your choice with your classmates and teacher. You may talk about a connected personal experience too.

Words

227





You may use the cues given below to state your choice and the reason.

- ✿ I chose ____ because...
- ✿ I selected ____ since...
- ✿ I decided on ____ due to...
- ✿ I picked ____ as...
- ✿ I settled for ____ because...



Writing Task

- I Write an essay on any one quotation from speaking activity. Follow the guidelines given below while drafting the essay.

Column 1 Paragraph Division	Column 2 Paragraph Content
1. Introduction	✿ Mention the quotation and the speaker. ✿ Briefly mention the reason why it appealed to you. ✿ State the purpose of the essay.



2. and 3. Body of the essay	- Each paragraph to explain a specific point or idea related to the quotation. - Begin with a topic sentence that introduces the main point of the paragraph. - Provide evidence, examples, or narratives to support the main point. - Ensure a smooth flow between paragraphs by using transition words. For example: In addition to..., For instance..., However..., Consequently..., Finally...
4. Counterargument	- Think about any possible criticism for the quotation. - Give reason why that criticism is baseless.
5. Conclusion	- Summarise the main points discussed in the body paragraphs. - End with a concluding statement that leaves a lasting impression.



Learning Beyond the Text

- I In groups of six, follow the instructions to play the 'Non-verbal' game.
 - Each student writes or makes an emoji with an expression on one slip and a gesture on the other.
 - Jumble the slips and keep them upside down.
 - Pick the slips in turns and enact it in 30 seconds.
 - The person who can identify the expression or gesture first, gets 10 points.
 - Continue it for two rounds and find the Non-verbal Champion.

Words

229



For example, an expression to denote tired could be:



and a gesture to denote united could be:



This game is like Dumb Charades. Dumb Charades is a word-guessing game where players act out words, phrases, or movie titles using gestures and body language without speaking. One person acts, and their teammates try to guess what's being mimed.

II Do you know?

The French priest Charles-Michel de l'Épée (1712–89) is recognised as 'The Father of Sign Language and Deaf Education'.

III You must have read poems and songs in English and in your own language. Now, read and enjoy the poem given below.

Weigh Your Words

If we would "weigh" the words we say,
And speak but those we mean,
We'd save a lot of talk each day,
And keep our conscience clean.

The idle words we often speak,
And promises we make,
If given credence, by the weak,
May cause some heart to ache.

We never know the pain and sting
An idle word may start;
We never can erase one thing,
We've written on a heart.

'Tis best to "weigh" each sentence well,
And as I've said before,
Tho "we'd not have so much to tell,
'Twould mean a whole lot more.

E. F. HAYWARD

