

# WORDS

## *Language, Names and Writing - Books, Literature and Poetry*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 6149 Books are immortal sons deifying their sires.  
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
- 6150 Books are ships which pass through the vast sea of time.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 6151 Words are the soul's ambassadors, who go  
Abroad upon her errands to and fro.  
James Howell (1595-1666)
- 6152 Words are but pictures of our thoughts.  
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 6153 Books, the children of the brain.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 6154 Poetry, the eldest sister of all arts, and parent of most.  
William Congreve (1670-1729)
- 6155 Words are but the signs of ideas.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 6156 Prose - words in their best order;  
Poetry - the best words in their best order.  
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 6157 All poetry is but a giving of names.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 6158 Poetry is truth dwelling in beauty.  
Robert Gilfillan (1798-1850)
- 6159 Language is the picture and counterpart of thought.  
Mark Hopkins (1802-1887)
- 6160 Language is a city to the building of which every human  
being brought a stone.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6161 Language is the light of the mind.  
John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

- 6162 Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.  
Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)
- 6163 Literature is news that stays news.  
Ezra Pound (1885-1972)

## 2. OPPOSITES

- 6164 Poetry is finer and more philosophical than history;  
for poetry expresses the universal,  
and history only the particular.  
Aristotle (B.C. 384-322)
- 6165 The same words conceal and declare the thoughts of men.  
Dionysius Cato (fl. 300 A.D.)
- 6166 The word is half his that speaks,  
and half his that hears it.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 6167 Men suppose their reason has command over their words;  
still it happens that words in return exercise authority on  
reason.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 6168 Words are the counters of wise man, and the money of fools.  
Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
- 6169 The last thing that we discover in writing a book  
is to know what to put at the beginning.  
Pascal (1623-1662)
- 6170 It is with books as with men: a very small number play a  
great part, the rest are lost in the multitude.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 6171 The only end of writing is to enable the readers better to  
enjoy life or better to endure it.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 6172 Words are the daughters of the earth,  
and things are the sons of heaven.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 6173 Words, like eyeglasses, blur everything that they do not  
make more clear.  
Joubert (1754-1824)
- 6174 Books are the best things, well used: abused, among  
the worst.  
Emerson (1803-1882)

- 6175 Words are both better and worse than thoughts, they express them, and add to them; they give them power for good or evil; they start them on an endless flight, for instruction and comfort and blessing, or for injury and sorrow and ruin.  
Tryon Edwards (1809-1894) 3 of 13
- 6176 Poetry puts the infinite within the finite.  
Robert Browning (1812-1889)
- 6177 Words are often seen hunting for an idea,  
but ideas are never seen hunting for words.  
Josh Billings (1815-1885)
- 6178 Some words are like rays of sunshine, others like barbed arrows or the bite of a serpent. And if hard words cut so deep, how much pleasure can kind ones give?  
Lubbock (1834-1913)
- 6179 Nine times out of ten, the coarse word is the word that condemns an evil and the refined word the word that excuses it.  
G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)
- 6180 Words are potent weapons for all causes, good or bad.  
Manly P. Hall (born 1901)
- 6181 Bitter words are good medicine...  
Sweet words carry infection.  
Chinese Proverb

### 3. INSIGHT

- 6182 This universe is a trinity and this is made of name, form, and action. The source of all names is the word, for it is by the word that all names are spoken. The word is behind all names, even as the Eternal is behind the word.  
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 6183 Without knowing the force of words,  
it is impossible to know men.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 6184 Knowledge is the foundation and source of good writing.  
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 6185 The desire to write grows with writing.  
Erasmus (1466-1536)
- 6186 The pen is the tongue of the mind.  
Cervantes (1547-1616)

- 6187 Syllables govern the world.  
John Selden (1584-1654)
- 6188 Oaths are but words, and words are but wind.  
Samuel Butler (1612-1680)
- 6189 Poetry is of so subtle a spirit, that in the pouring out of  
one language into another it will evaporate.  
John Denham (1615-1668)
- 6190 The world is satisfied with words.  
Few appreciate the things beneath.  
Pascal (1623-1662)
- 6191 Proper words in proper places,  
make the true definition of a style.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 6192 Ideas in the mind are the transcript of the world;  
words are the transcript of ideas;  
and writing and printing are the transcript of words.  
Addison (1672-1719)
- 6193 True ease in writing comes from art, not chance,  
As those move easiest who have learn'd to dance.  
Pope (1688-1744)
- 6194 One great use of words is to hide our thoughts.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 6195 Literature is a fragment of a fragment;  
of all that ever happened, or has been said, but a fraction  
has been written, and of this but little is extant.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 6196 Language is the armory of the human mind, and at once  
contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its  
future conquests.  
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 6197 Language is not only the vehicle of thought,  
it is a great and efficient instrument in thinking.  
Humphrey Davy (1778-1829)
- 6198 Words are the only things that last forever.  
Hazlitt (1778-1830)
- 6199 There are words which are worth as much as the best actions,  
for they contain the germ of them all.  
Anne Swetchine (1782-1857)

- 6200 But words are things, and a small drop of ink,  
Falling, like dew, upon a thought produces  
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions think.  
Byron (1788-1824)
- 6201 A poem is the very image of life  
expressed in its eternal truth.  
Shelley (1792-1822)
- 6202 Poetry we will call Musical Thought.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 6203 A moment of thinking is an hour of words.  
Thomas Hood (1798-1845)
- 6204 By poetry we mean the art of employing words in such a  
manner as to produce an illusion on the imagination;  
the art of doing by means of words,  
what the painter does by means of colors.  
Macaulay (1800-1859)
- 6205 It does not need that a poem should be long.  
Every word was once a poem.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6206 As shadows attend substances, so words follow upon things.  
Trench (1807-1886)
- 6207 The idea, word and writing (of the word), are signs to man  
for a thing, and is not the thing itself, to the Creator,  
however, idea, word and writing (of the word) are the thing  
itself, or as some ancients remarked: "Idea, word and work  
are one and the same to God."  
Isidor Kalisch (1810-1886)
- 6208 With a knowledge of the name comes a distincter recognition  
and knowledge of the thing.  
Thoreau (1817-1862)
- 6209 The oldest books are still only just out to those who have  
not read them.  
Samuel Butler (1835-1902)
- 6210 The great art of writing is the art of making people real  
to themselves with words.  
Logan Smith (1865-1946)
- 6211 Words are the most powerful drug used by mankind.  
Kipling (1865-1936)

- 6212 To write simply is as difficult as to be good.  
Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)
- 6213 Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to  
the utmost possible degree.  
Ezra Pound (1885-1972)
- 6214 Many books do not use up words...  
Many words do not use up thought.  
Chinese Proverb

#### 4. POSITIVE

- 6215 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold  
in pictures of silver.  
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 6216 Poetry comes nearer to vital truth than history.  
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
- 6217 How forcible are right words!  
Job (B.C. 400?)
- 6218 We see then how far the monuments of wit and learning are  
more durable than the monuments of power, or of the hands.  
For have not some books continued twenty-five hundred years  
or more, without the loss of a syllable or letter; during  
which time infinite palaces, temples, castles, and cities  
have been decayed and demolished?  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 6219 Books give not wisdom where none was before,  
But where some is, there reading makes it more.  
John Harrington (1561-1612)
- 6220 A good book is the precious lifeblood of a master spirit,  
embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.  
Milton (1608-1674)
- 6221 Good words do more than hard speeches, as the sunbeams  
without any noise will make the traveller cast off his  
cloak, which all the blustering winds could not do, but  
only make him bind it closer to him.  
Robert Leighton (1611-1684)
- 6222 Of all those arts in which the wise excel,  
Nature's chief masterpiece is writing well.  
John Sheffield (1648-1721)

- 6223 Poetry is the music of the soul, and, above all, of great  
and feeling souls.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 6224 The chief glory of every people arises from its authors.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 6225 The writings of the wise are the only riches our posterity  
cannot squander.  
Landor (1775-1864)
- 6226 That writer does the most, who gives his reader the most  
knowledge, and takes from him the least time.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 6227 Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments  
of the happiest and best minds.  
Shelley (1792-1822)
- 6228 All that Mankind has done, thought, gained or been is  
lying as in magic preservation in the pages of Books.  
They are the chosen possession of men.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 6229 That is a good book which is opened with expectation and  
closed with profit.  
Amos B. Alcott (1799-1888)
- 6230 In the highest civilization the book is still the highest  
delight.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6231 Literature is an avenue to glory, ever open for those  
ingenious men who are deprived of honours or of wealth.  
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 6232 With words we govern men.  
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 6233 A good book is the best of friends,  
the same to-day and forever.  
Tupper (1810-1889)
- 6234 A powerful agent is the right word. Whenever we come upon  
one of those intensely right words in a book or a newspaper  
the resulting effect is physical as well as spiritual...  
Mark Twain (1835-1910)
- 6235 A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom.  
Robert Frost (1875-1963)

- 6236 But for all their inadequacy and their radical unlikeness to the facts to which they refer, words remain the most reliable and accurate of our symbols. Whenever we want to have a precise report of facts or ideas, we must resort to words.  
Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)
- 6237 Words are one of our chief means of adjusting to all the situations of life. The better control we have over words, the more successful our adjustment is likely to be.  
Bergen Evans (born 1904)
- 6238 One kind word can warm three winter months.  
Japanese Proverb
- 6239 Words spoken may fly away...  
The writing-brush leaves its mark.  
Chinese Proverb

## 5. NEGATIVE

- 6240 To utter pleasant words without practicing them, is like a fine flower without fragrance.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6241 If names are not correct, language will not be in accordance with the truth of things.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 6242 The chief virtue that language can have is clearness, and nothing detracts from it so much as the use of unfamiliar words.  
Hippocrates (B.C. 460-370)
- 6243 Poets utter great and wise things which they do not themselves understand.  
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
- 6244 Words are used to express meaning; when you understand the meaning, you can forget about the words.  
Chuang-tzu (fl. B.C. 350)
- 6245 It is as easy to draw back a stone thrown with force from the hand, as to recall a word once spoken.  
Menander (B.C. 342-291)
- 6246 He utters empty words, he utters sound without mind.  
Vergil (B.C. 70-19)



- 6247 There is no need of words; believe facts.  
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.) 9 of 13
- 6248 Men of few words are the best men.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 6249 Obscurity in writing is commonly an argument of darkness in the mind. The greatest learning is to be seen in the greatest plainness.  
John Wilkins (1614-1672)
- 6250 A single word often betrays a great design.  
Jean Baptiste Racine (1639-1699)
- 6251 The multitude of books is making us ignorant.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 6252 A successful author is equally in danger of diminution of his fame, whether he continues or ceases to write.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 6253 A very great part of the mischiefs that vex this world arises from words.  
Burke (1729-1797)
- 6254 Volatility of words is carelessness in actions; words are the wings of actions.  
Lavater (1741-1801)
- 6255 How many people make themselves abstract to appear profound. The great part of abstract terms are shadows that hide a vacuum.  
Joubert (1754-1824)
- 6256 A word too much always defeats its purpose.  
Schopenhauer (1788-1860)
- 6257 An author who speaks about his own books is almost as bad as a mother who talks about her own children.  
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 6258 Most books, indeed, are records less Of fullness than emptiness.  
William Allingham (1824-1889)
- 6259 A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed.  
Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906)

- 6260 Actions are the first tragedies in life, words are the second. Words are perhaps the worst. Words are merciless.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 6261 The difference between journalism and literature is that journalism is unreadable and literature is not read.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 6262 Water and words...  
Easy to pour  
Impossible to recover.  
Chinese Proverb

## 6. ADVICE

- 6263 Use words sparingly,  
then all things will fall into place.  
A tornado does not last a whole morning.  
A downpour of rain does not last a whole day.  
And who works these?  
Heaven and Earth.  
What Heaven and Earth cannot do enduringly:  
how much less can man do it?  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 6264 Do not say a little in many words but a great deal in a few.  
Pythagoras (B.C. 582-507)
- 6265 Let your literary compositions be kept from the public eye for nine years at least.  
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 6266 Ye who write, choose a subject suited to your abilities.  
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 6267 If you would be a reader, read; if a writer, write.  
Epictetus (50-138 A.D.)
- 6268 When words are scarce they're seldom spent in vain.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 6269 In words, as fashions, the same rule will hold;  
Alike fantastic, if too new, or old:  
Be not the first by whom the new are tried,  
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside.  
Pope (1688-1744)
- 6270 A good writer does not write as people write,  
but as he writes.  
Montesquieu (1689-1755)

- 6271 It is in books the chief of all perfections  
to be plain and brief.  
Joseph Butler (1692-1752)
- 6272 If you be pungent, be brief; for it is with words as with  
sunbeams - the more they are condensed the deeper they burn.  
Robert Southey (1774-1843)
- 6273 Make the same use of a book that the bee does of a flower:  
she steals sweets from it, but does not injure it.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 6274 Master books, but do not let them master you. -  
Read to live, not live to read.  
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)
- 6275 In science, read, by preference, the newest works;  
in literature, the oldest.  
The classic literature is always modern.  
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)
- 6276 An orator or author is never successful till he has  
learned to make his words smaller than his ideas.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6277 The writer must earn money in order to be able to live and  
to write, but he must by no means live and write for the  
purpose of making money.  
Karl Marx (1818-1883)
- 6278 A book should be luminous, but not voluminous.  
Bovee (1820-1904)

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 6279 The word which appeared as a pillar of flame out of the  
darkness is the Son of God, born of the mystery of the Mind.  
The name of that Word is Reason. Reason is the offspring of  
Thought and Reason shall divide the Light from the darkness  
and establish Truth in the midst of the waters.  
The Divine Pymander (BC 2500?-200 AD?)
- 6280 Twenty-two letters: He drew them, hewed them, combined  
them, weighed them, interchanged them, and through them  
produced the whole creation and everything that is destined  
to come into being.  
Sepher Yezirah (B.C. 2000?-600 A.D.)
- 6281 The paper burns, but the words fly away.  
Ben Joseph Akiba (40?-135 A.D.)

- 6282 It is not possible to attain to an understanding of the creation of man, except by the mystery of letters; and in these worlds of The Infinite is nothing, except the letters of the Alphabet and their combinations. All the worlds are Letters and Names; but He Who is the Author of all, has no name.  
Zohar (120?-1200? A.D.)
- 6283 What do you read, my lord?  
Words, words, words.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 6284 One merit of poetry few persons will deny:  
it says more and in fewer words than prose.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 6285 Your manuscript is both good and original;  
but the part that is good is not original,  
and the part that is original is not good.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 6286 How pure the joy when first my hands unfold  
The small, rare volume, black with tarnished gold.  
John Ferriar (1761-1815)
- 6287 O! many a shaft, at random sent,  
Finds mark the archer little meant!  
And many a word, at random spoken,  
May soothe or wound a heart that's broken!  
Walter Scott (1771-1832)
- 6288 The world is full of poetry. - The air is living with its  
spirit; and the waves dance to the music of its melodies,  
and sparkle in its brightness.  
James Percival (1795-1856)
- 6289 In books lies the soul of the whole Past Time;  
the articulate audible voice of the Past,  
when the body and material substance of it  
has altogether vanished like a dream.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 6290 For no man can write anything who does not think that what  
he writes is, for the time, the history of the world.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6291 He who writes prose builds his temple to Fame in rubble;  
he who writes verses builds it in granite.  
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

- 6292 The Word of God is the universal and invisible Light,  
cognizable by the senses, that emits its blaze in the Sun,  
Moon, Planets, and other Stars.  
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 6293 There is probably no hell for authors in the next world-  
they suffer so much from critics and publishers in this.  
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 6294 A definition encloses a wilderness of idea  
within a wall of words.  
Samuel Butler (1835-1902)
- 6295 But from sharp words and wits men pluck no fruit;  
And gathering thorns they shake the tree at root;  
For words divide and rend,  
But silence is most noble till the end.  
Swinburne (1837-1909)
- 6296 And while the great and wise decay,  
And while their trophies pass away,  
Some sudden thought, some careless rhyme,  
Still floats above the wrecks of time.  
William Lecky (1838-1903)
- 6297 God wove a web of loveliness,  
of clouds and stars and birds,  
but made not anything at all  
so beautiful as words.  
Anna Hempstead Branch (1874-1937)