

WORDS

Weigh, Understand and Apply

Name:

Class:

Date:

PRE-READING

Why Words Matter

This is the chapter's own opening question — answer it before you read.

Why are words important? Can we communicate without words? How?

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WHILE READING

Stanza 1: The Weighing Scale

*"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 poet asks us to "weigh" our words before speaking. Sort these into the correct side of the scale: sincere • careless • thoughtful • unnecessary • honest • empty

Weighed Words (kept)	Unweighed Words (better left unsaid)

Stanza 2: The Chain Reaction

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

Complete the chain showing how one careless promise can lead to hurt.

An idle promise is made

Someone believes and relies on it

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Their heart aches

Stanza 3: Written on a Heart

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

The poet compares a hurtful word to writing that can never be erased. Match this idea to other permanent marks.

Everyday permanent mark	Why it can't be undone
Ink on paper	
A scar on skin	
A hurtful word on a heart	

Stanza 4: Less vs. More

"'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."

The poet says saying less can actually mean more. Complete both sides.

What we give up (quantity)	What we gain instead (quality)

Grammar in Context

This poem uses old-fashioned English forms. Find one example of each from the poem.

Form	Example from the poem
An archaic contraction (e.g. 'Tis, Tho, 'Twould)	
A conditional mood phrase (e.g. "we'd not have")	

POST-READING

Revisit: Why Words Matter

Go back to your Pre-Reading answer. Would you add anything now that you've read the poem?

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The Weight of Words

Describe a time when a few carefully chosen words made a real difference.

What was said:

Why it mattered:

Apply It

Name one situation where you will try to "weigh your words" more carefully from now on.

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Exit Ticket

The poem's message in one sentence:



Well done! You've completed your Reading Companion for Words.

Keep this sheet safe — it's a great quick-revision tool before your exam.