

## The Wonderful Words

Imagine a world without language. All humans speak at least one language. The words we speak bring out our thoughts. Read the following poem on words.

*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.*

*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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**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 thought.
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