

## IMPORTANT QUOTES

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

— Mahatma Gandhi

"We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open."

"Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit."

"Life is like a game of cards. The hand you are dealt is determinism; the way you play it is free will."

"What we really are matters more than what other people think of us."

"Facts are facts and will not disappear on account of your likes."

"The art of a people is a true mirror to their minds."

"Time is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels, and what one achieves."

"Peace is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition of mind brought about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people."

"Failure comes only when we forget our ideals and objectives and principles."

- Jawaharlal Nehru

“Do not allow yourselves to be disheartened by any failure as long as you have done your best”

“We cannot do great things. We can only do little things with great love”

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies”

“Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.”

“Even the rich are hungry for love, for being cared for, for being wanted, for having someone to call their own.”

“I try to give to the poor people for love what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God.”

“The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved.”

“Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.”

“Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.”

“Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God - the rest will be given.”

“Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.”

- Mother Teresa

“We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.”

“Arise, Awake and Stop not until the goal is reached”

- Swami Vivekananda.

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.”

"I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying."

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."

"I am not young enough to know everything."

"Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same."

"There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it."

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

— Oscar Wilde

"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity."

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

— Albert Einstein

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

- Winston Churchill

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."

"Hell is a half-filled auditorium."

- Robert Frost

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run. -  
Rudyard Kipling

"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success."- Dale Carnegie

The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do, well.-  
Henry W. Longfellow

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."- Thomas A. Edison

"Don't let the fear of losing be greater than the excitement of winning."-  
Robert Kiyosaki

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." -Helen Keller

"If you are going through hell, keep going." -Winston Churchill

"The purpose of our lives is to be happy." -Dalai Lama

"Don't count the days, make the days count." -Muhammad Ali

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." -Thomas A. Edison

"Your voice can change the world." -Barack Obama

## **punishment in kindergarden**

Kamala Das was born in Punneyurkulam, Kerala in 1934. Kamala spent several years in Calcutta, where she went to Catholic schools. She was married fairly early, before she finished her college. So she happens to be the only leading Indian English poet without a degree to her name. She began writing early and published her first poems in The Indian P.E.N. The first volume of her Collected Poems published in 1984 won her the Sahitya Academy award for 1985. Kamala Das has been typecast as a confessional poet. It is her brutal frankness of her verse that shocked and attracted readers. Kamala writes about sexual frustration and desire, of the suffocation of an arranged love-less marriage, of numerous affairs, of the futility of lust, of the shame and sorrow of not finding love after repeated attempts, of the loneliness and neurosis that stalks women especially.

Analysis, Explanation and Theme of Punishment in Kindergarten By Kamala Das

The poem is warm and muffled, and recounts the picnic of the poetess at Victoria Gardens to which followed it (as Kamala Das tells us in her autobiography). She was all alone near the hedge, while other girls were playing at a distance. The poem demonstrates the poet's capacity to smell the flowers as well as the pain of being slighted. It has hardly any suggested larger meaning.

"Punishment in Kindergarten" is a little autobiographical poem by the famous Indo-Anglian poet Kamala Das. She recalls one of her childhood experiences. When she was in the kindergarten, one day the children were taken for a picnic. All the children except her were playing and making merry. But she alone kept away from the company of the children. Their teacher, a blue-frocked woman, scolded her saying.

"Why don't you join the others, what

A peculiar child you are!"

This heard, all the other children who were sipping sugar cane turned and laughed. The child felt it very much. She became sad at the words of the teacher. But the laughter by the children made her sadder. She thought that they should have consoled her rather than laughing and insulting her. Filled with sorrow and shame she hid her face in a hedge and wept. This was indeed a painful experience to a little child in the nursery school.

Now after many years she has grown into an adult. She has only a faint memory of the blue-frosted woman and the laughing faces of the children. Now she has learned to have an 'adult peace' and happiness in her present state as a grown-up person. Now there is no need for her to be perturbed about that bitter kindergarten experience. With her long experience in life she has learned that life is a mixture of joy and sorrow. She remembers how she has experienced both the joy and sorrow of life. The long passage of time has taught her many things. She is no more a lonely individual as she used to feel when she was a child. The poet comes to a conclusion that there is no need for her to remember that picnic day, when she hid her face in the hedge, watching the steel-white sun, that was standing lonely in the sky.

The subject matter of the poem has two parts, the first of which being the description of the painful experience of the kindergarten days and the second, the adult's attitude to the incident at present when she is no more a child. Thus the major theme of the poem is nostalgia and the sense of moving on with life.

The poem is very simple in its construction and even colloquial in diction. Yet in its delivery it is very much like the narrative of a film which goes back and forth in time to bring out a small incident in the life of the poetess which sets off her introvert nature that gets all the more pronounced as she grows up. In fact the incident is a reminder of the fact that the talented usually spend a lonely life right from their beginning. Thus from the psychological perspective too the poem is simple only on the surface level. The tone of the poem is pensive if not sad. It is a tone of compromise in the face of inevitability. Kamala believes in letting go and she does exorcise the minor ghost of her past only to bring out the one she is still haunted with – isolation.

Kamala seems to be saying that though sometimes in times of crisis or loneliness we tend to remember some long forgotten incident of humiliation and pain it is better to forget and forgive and move on. The poem is also a

testimony to the fact that with time people tend to forget their pain and moves on in life for better things.

The images used again are deceptively simple. In tune with the theme of the poem the images are evocative yet blurred. The teacher's identity gets shrunk to a blue skirt but the words she 'threw' at her are still remembered as pots and pans. Though the image is a humorous one it shows the obnoxiousness of the assault. Words had hurt the young girl more than real hurts and today after so long they have taken a more materialistic form in the memory of the grown person. The image of the hedge and the sun is quite symptomatic of the introverted nature of the poet and the subtle projection of her chronic loneliness onto a celestial object. The synaesthetic evocation of the image the smell of pain is remarkable for its zeugma.

It's not only the above mentioned zeugma that adds the tinge to the poem but also the simile, the metaphor, the metonymy and the personification in the following lines respectively – "throwing Words at me like pots and pans", "That honey-coloured day of peace" "A blue-frosted woman", "The years have Sped along, stopping briefly at beloved halts and moving sadly on." Add the necessary and indispensable ring of poetry to the lines.

Thus the poem is a true modernist poem which at the same time nostalgically remembering an incident of childhood remembers it not in a moment of glorification but as an insight into an event of pain due to inborn desire for isolation and of difference. Kindergarten thus transforms from a site of celebration of innocence to the mourning of the loss of innocence yet with a positive note of the desire or capability of letting go.

### **my grandmothers house**

The Poem-

There is a house now far away where once

Kamala Das

I received love..... That woman died,

The house withdrew into silence, snakes moved

Among books, I was then too young

To read, and my blood turned cold like the moon

How often I think of going

There, to peer through blind eyes of windows or

Just listen to the frozen air,  
Or in wild despair, pick an armful of  
Darkness to bring it here to lie  
Behind my bedroom door like a brooding  
Dog...you cannot believe, darling,  
Can you, that I lived in such a house and  
Was proud, and loved.... I who have lost  
My way and beg now at strangers' doors to  
Receive love, at least in small change?

#### Summary-

“My Grandmother’s House” is a constituent poem of Kamala Das’s maiden publication *Summer in Calcutta*. Though SHORT, the poem wraps within itself an intriguing sense of nostalgia and uprootedness. In her eternal quest for love in such a ‘loveless’ world, the poet remembers her grandmother which surfaces some emotions long forgotten and buried within her-- an ironical expression of her past which is a tragic contrast to her present situation. It is a forcefully moving poem fraught with nostalgia and anguish.

The poet says that there is a house, her grandmother’s home, far away from where she currently resides, where she “received love”. Her grandmother’s home was a place she felt secure and was loved by all. After the death of her grandmother, the poet says that even the House was filled with grief, and accepted the seclusion with resignation. Only dead silence haunted over the House, feeling of desolation wandering throughout. She recollects though she couldn’t read books at that time, yet she had a feeling of snakes moving among them-- a feeling of deadness, horror and repulsion, and this feeling made her blood go cold and turn her face pale like the moon. She often thinks of going back to that Old House, just to peek through the “blind eyes of the windows” which have been dead-shut for years, or just to listen to the “frozen” air.

The poet also shows the ironical contrast between her past and present and says that her present has been so tormenting that even the Darkness of the House that is bathed in Death does not horrify her anymore and it is a rather comforting companion for her in the present state of trials. The poet says that she would gladly (“in wild despair”) pick up a handful of Darkness from the House and bring it back to her home to “lie behind my bedroom door” so that the memories of the Old House and its comforting darkness, a rather ironical expression, might fill assurance and happiness in her present life. She wraps up the poem saying that it is hard for one to believe that she once lived in such a house and was so loved by all and lived her life with pride. That her world was once filled with happiness is a sharp contrast to her present situation where she is completely devoid of love and pride. She says



that in her desperate quest for love, she has lost her way; since she didn't receive any feelings of love from the people whom she called her own, she now has to knock "at strangers' doors" and beg them for love, if not in substantial amounts, then atleast in small change i.e. in little measure atleast.

The poet has intensified the emotions of nostalgia and anguish by presenting a contrast between her childhood and her grown-up stages. The fullness of the distant and absence and the emptiness of the near and the present give the poem its poignancy. The images of "snakes moving among books", blood turning "cold like the moon", "blind eyes of window", "frozen air" evoke a sense of death and despair. The house itself becomes a symbol - an Edenic world, a cradle of love and joy. The escape, the poetic retreat, is in fact, the poet's own manner of suggesting the hopelessness of her present situation. Her yearning for the house is a symbolic retreat to a world of innocence, purity and simplicity.

Where the Mind is Without Fear: About the poem

"Where the mind is Without Fear" by Rabindranath Tagore is one of his vastly read and discussed poems. It was originally composed in Bengali possibly in 1900 under the title "Prarthana", meaning prayer. It appeared in the volume called 'Naibedya' in 1901. Later in 1911 Tagore himself translated the Bengali poem into English and that translation appeared as poem 35 in his Nobel winning anthology "Gitanjali" (Song Offerings) published by the Indian Society, London in 1912.

So when the poem was written, India was under the British Rule and people were eagerly waiting to get their freedom from the British Rule. The poem is written in the form of a prayer to the God, the Almighty for a true freedom for his country. And thus Tagore reveals his own concept of freedom throughout the poem, Where the Mind is Without Fear.

Where the Mind is Without Fear: Line by line Explanation

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;

In the very first line, the poet prays to the Almighty that his countrymen should be free from any fear of oppression or forced compulsion. He wishes that everyone in his country has his head held high in dignity. In other words, according to him, in a truly free country every person should be fearless and should have a sense of self dignity.

Where knowledge is free;

In the second line of *Where the Mind is Without Fear* the poet dreams of a nation where knowledge would be free. Education should not be restricted to the upper class only but everybody should be allowed to acquire knowledge. Not only that, the children should learn freely from the nature and the world around them. They should not be forced memorize some predetermined lessons. And this is Tagore's typical concept of education.

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
By narrow domestic walls;

In the next two lines, the poet emphasizes the unity of not only of his countrymen but also of the entire world. He thinks there should be no division among people based on their caste, creed, color, religion or other baseless superstitions. In other words, prejudices and superstitions should not divide the people in groups and break their unity.

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

In line 5 of *Where the Mind is Without Fear*, Tagore wants a nation where people are truthful. They should not be superficial and words should come out from the depth of their hearts.

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

In the sixth line of the poem, the poet wants everyone to work hard to reach their goal, and in the long run to reach perfection. . He thinks they should not be tired by working. People should not be lazy and ignoring their work.

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way

Into the dreary desert sand of dead habits;

In line 7, the poet compares 'reason' or logical thinking to a "clear stream" and in the next line compares 'dead habits' or superstitious beliefs to a 'dreary desert'. He wants the stream of reason not to lose its way into the desert of prejudices. In short, people's thought should be monitored by rational thinking, not by superstition; logic should rule over old baseless beliefs.

Where the mind is led forward by thee

Into ever-widening thought and action;

In line 9 and 10 the poet wishes his countrymen to be progressive and broad-minded. He wants that their minds are "led forward" to "ever-widening thought and action" by the Almighty.

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake

In the final line of the poem, the poet addresses the God as 'Father'. He asks him to awaken his country into such a 'heaven of freedom' where the above conditions meet.

To make it clear, the poet prays to the Almighty (my Father) to raise or lift (awake) his country to such heights where freedom would be realised at its best (a heaven of freedom). In turn, he is actually praying that God awakens his countrymen so that they come out from the darkness of ignorance, prejudices, disunity and all other evils.

In the poem the poet's message is very clear. If all the people of a nation are not wise enough to lead a happy and peaceful life free from all evils, they cannot enjoy their freedom well. So to the poet, only political freedom is not so important unless you are fearless, self dignified, knowledgeable, truthful, hard-working and broad-minded enough to enjoy it fully.

Most of these phrasal verbs have several meanings, make sure you remember them all!

### 1. Add up

a- To be added together and equal the expected or correct total.

Example: "We added up the apples: there were 12"

b-To make sense : to seem to be logical or true.

Example: "Her story didn't add up, I think she was lying, it didn't make sense"

### 2. Blow up

a- To fill (something) with air or gas

Example: "Please could you blow up those balloons?"

b- To explode or to cause (something, such as a bomb) to explode.

Example: "The building was blown up by a bomb"

c- To become very angry.

Example: "When I said I couldn't go to her party, she blew up"

### 3. Bring up

a- To take care of and teach (a child who is growing up).

Example: "Their grandparents brought them up because their parents were always travelling"

b- To mention (something) when talking : to start to talk about (something).

Example: "Don't bring up the fight again, please!"

#### 4. Call off

a- To stop doing or planning to do (something) .

Example: "Maria called off the wedding, she decided she didn't love him"

b- To cause or tell (a person or animal) to stop attacking, chasing, etc.

Example: "Call off your dog! He's attacking my cat"

#### 5. Carry on

a- To continue to do what you have been doing

Example: "Sorry I interrupted, carry on talking!"

b- To behave or speak in an excited or foolish way.

Example: "The little boy was carrying on: shouting and kicking all day long"

#### 6. Come across

a- To seem to have a particular quality or character : to make a particular impression.

Example: "Julia came across as a bit bossy"

b- To be expressed to someone.

Example: "I tried to sound happy but it came across as over-excited"

c- To meet or find (something or someone) by chance.

Example: "Luis was leaving the fruit shop and he came across Tom, what a coincidence"

#### 7. Come up with

a- To get or think of (something that is needed or wanted).

Example: "We finally came up with a solution to the problem!"

#### 8. Fall apart

a- To break into parts in usually a sudden and unexpected way,  
Example: "My cake fell apart when I tried to cut it"

b- To become unable to live in a normal way because you are experiencing a lot of confusion or emotional pain  
Example: "After the divorce, she fell apart"

## 9. Get along

a- To be or remain friendly  
Example: "We're not together anymore, but we get along great"

b- To make progress while doing something.  
Example: "How are you getting along at playing the guitar?"

c- To leave a place  
Example: "It was lovely to see you, but my friend has to get along, she has class"

d- To become old.  
Example: "Her grandma is getting along; she's almost 99"

## 10. Get away

a- To go away from a place.  
Example: "I cannot wait to get away from the city"

b- To avoid being caught : to escape  
Example: "The thieves managed to get away in a stolen car"

c- To not be criticised or punished for (something).  
Example: "Yvonne is always lying, I can't understand how she gets away with it"

## 11. Get over

a- To stop being controlled or bothered by something, such as a problem or feeling.  
Example: "I got over my fear of flying"

b- To stop feeling unhappy about (something).  
Example: "Finally, Kylie got over her ex-boyfriend"

c- To become healthy again after (an illness).

Example: "Have you heard? Dave has got over the flu"

## 12. Give up

a- To stop an activity or effort : to admit that you cannot do something and stop trying

Example: "We all gave up smoking on January 1st"

## 13. Go on

a- To continue.

Example: "They landed in Paris and then went on to Montpellier"

b- To go or travel to a place before another person or group that is with you.

Example: "You go on to the restaurant, I'll come in 10 minutes"

c- To happen

Example: "What's going on? What's happening?"

d- Used in speech to urge someone to do something

Example: "Go on! Try it, it's delicious"

## 14. Hold on

a- To have or keep your hand, arms, etc., tightly around something.

Example: "Hold on to the railing, that way you won't fall"

b- To succeed in keeping a position, condition, etc.

Example: "I will hold on to my job until May"

## 15. Look after –

a- To take care of (someone or something).

Example: "The nurse looked after the patient for months, until he was better"

## 16. Look forward to

a- To expect (something) with pleasure.

Example: "William is really looking forward to going on holiday"

## 17. Look up

a- Improve.

Example: "The economy is finally looking up"

b- To search for (something) in a reference book, on the Internet, etc.

Example: "Let's look up his number in the yellow pages"

## 18. Make out –

a- To write down the required information on (something, such as a check).

Example: "Who shall I make the check out to?"

b- To hear and understand (something)

Example: "I can't make out what you're saying, can you speak louder?"

c- To kiss and touch for a long time in a sexual way.

Example: "We made out in the back of his car"

## 19. Pass out

a- To fall asleep or become unconscious.

Example: "Lisa was so tired, she got home and passed out on the sofa"

b- to give (something) to several or many people.

Example: "I passed out leaflets with information on our course"

## 20. Pull over

a- To move a vehicle to the side of the road and stop.

Example: "That looks like a lovely restaurant, can you pull the car over and park?"

## 21. Put down

a- To place (someone or something that you have been holding or carrying) on a table, on the floor, etc.

Example: "You can put the suitcases down in the bedroom"

b- To write (something) : to record (something) in writing

Example: "He put down his memories to write a book when he was older"

c- To give (an amount of money) as a first payment when you are buying something that costs a lot of money

Example: "My husband and I are going to put down some money to buy that house in the centre of town"

d- To kill (an animal) in a way that causes it little pain usually because it is injured or sick

Example: "Jessica had to have her rabbit put down; it was very sick"

## 22. Put off

a- To decide that (something) will happen at a later time : postpone.

Example: "Graham was so tired he put the shopping off until next week"

b- To cause (someone) to dislike someone or something

Example: "You're putting me off my food, stop talking about insects!"

## 23. Put up with

a- To allow (someone or something unpleasant or annoying) to exist or happen.

Example: "My mother won't put up with my sisters or I swearing"

## 24. Turn up

a- To be found usually unexpectedly.

Example: "Oh! My phone turned up in my bed!"

b- To arrive at a place

Example: "As always, Julian turned up late"

c- To increase the volume, temperature, etc., of something by pressing a button, moving a switch, etc.

Example: "Please turn the music up, I love this song!"

## 25. Watch out

a- To be aware of something dangerous.

Example: "Watch out in the mountain, there are bears there!"