

Chapter 6: Say the Right Thing

About the Author



G. C. Thornley was a British writer and English language teacher. He is best known for writing simple, humorous plays and stories for young learners. His works focus on everyday situations and teach important life lessons through wit and humour.

Theme

1. The importance of polite and thoughtful communication.
2. Good manners and hospitality.
3. Thinking before speaking.
4. The effect of words on other people's

feelings.

Respect and social etiquette.

Genre

Humorous Play (Comedy)

Drama

Social Comedy

Characters

1. Mary – A confident but immature girl who often speaks without thinking.
2. Mrs. Shaw – Mary's caring and sensible mother who teaches her good manners.
3. Mrs. Harding – A guest whose feelings are unintentionally hurt by Mary's remarks.
4. Mrs. Lee – Another guest who politely responds despite Mary's awkward comments.

Short Summary

The play revolves around Mrs. Shaw and her daughter Mary. Mrs. Shaw is expecting two guests and repeatedly advises Mary to speak politely and avoid making embarrassing

remarks. Mary believes she already knows how to behave, but during the guests' visit she makes several blunt and insensitive comments. Her careless words create awkward and humorous situations, leaving her mother embarrassed. Through this light-hearted play, the author shows that speaking kindly and thoughtfully is an important social skill.

Message of the Story

The play teaches that words have great power. We should always think before we speak because careless words can hurt others and create embarrassment. Politeness, kindness, and respect help us build strong relationships and leave a positive impression. Good communication is not only about speaking honestly but also about speaking with sensitivity and consideration for others.