

Main ideas from "Words" by Joan Bauer

1. Write the definition for words that Holmes uses, and explain what this means to you.
2. What does Mark Twain have to say about diction?
3. How does she answer her question, "Why should the right word mean so much?" and how is the answer similar to the James 3 passage?
4. How was she so hurt by words when she was a waitress?
5. Words are like characters in a book because they both have what?
6. What are the words that "set her heart on fire"?
7. The definitions of words are not their only power. Their connotations (i.e. how we define them) are important. What are some words that have this power to evoke memories?
8. Why is the 23rd Psalm so important to her?
9. Explain what she means by "words can be icons of the past."
10. How can words influence us?
11. Give one example of what she calls a "flagrant abuse of words."
12. What's "funny" about the word, "funny"?
13. What three words does she post in her office?
14. What are her current three favorite words and why does she like each one?
15. She says her early drafts were "zing-less" What did she do to make them better?

16. Write Jack London's quote and explain what it means.

17. How can she tell when a sentence is right?

18. What does she mean by "whole body vocab absorption"?