

Unspoken Words

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Anais Ninn stated that "[t]he role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say." Throughout all of society's time, there are things that are never spoken aloud in fear of what may come to pass because of it. Due to this fear, people stay quiet and look the other way, ignoring things that should be talked about. Literature became a way to speak on restricted subjects without actually speaking about them, therefore bringing attention to what so many choose to ignore.

Works of literature often show what needs to be addressed. Writers such as Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*, and William Golding, *The Lord of the Flies*, have written about topics that are taboo and disliked. The novels mentioned have all been banned in places due to the ostracized subjects that society wants to "move on from" or in latent terms ignore. Rather than accept and learn from, society tends to ignore the topics they do not have a way to "clean" or "cover" up. Writers should not simply fall in with what is wanted and ignore these subjects, they should do the opposite and bring attention to the wrongings of society. Harper Lee states "[t]he book to read is not the one that thinks for you but the one that makes you think." Writers take this challenge upon themselves to make society see and acknowledge the dark side of itself that it wants to disregard. Everyone can talk about racism, genocide, or oppression, however, even within talking about it there are things that people will never say out loud or address. Writers give words to those unspoken reasons, give meaning to those whispered actions, and they tell the story for those who can never express their own.

Literature is a place where billions of unspoken words go to tell the stories they can never say with their mouths. Anais Ninn brings attention to the reality of writers. The world is still in a state of oppression, and though it is getting better, there is a long way to go before many truths will be addressed and everyone can speak their own unspoken words aloud. Who knows if it will ever truly reach that level, but there is no harm in looking to a future where we do not have to hide and turn away from topics that need to be expressed.