

Margaret Oliphant

The Open Door

[ze słownikiem]

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B1

Otwarte wrota

Z PODRĘCZNYM SŁOWNIKIEM ANGIELSKO-POLSKIM

dla osób znających język angielski co najmniej na poziomie B1

Ruda Śląska, 2024

Wydawnictwo:

[ze słownikiem], <https://zeslownikiem.pl>, <https://readings.world>, [Facebook.com/zeslownikiem](https://facebook.com/zeslownikiem)

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ISBN:

978-83-66471-39-9

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The Open Door

THE OPEN DOOR

I took the house of Brentwood on my return from **India** in 18-, for the **temporary** accommodation of my family, until I could find a **permanent** home for them. It had many advantages which **made it peculiarly appropriate**.

It was within reach of **Edinburgh**; and my boy Roland, whose education had been **considerably neglected**, could ride in and out to school; which was thought to be better for him than either leaving home **altogether** or staying there always with a **tutor**. The **lad** was **doubly precious** to us, being the only one left to us of many; and he was **fragile** in body, we believed, and **deeply sensitive** in mind.

The two girls also found at Brentwood everything they wanted. They were near enough to Edinburgh to have **masters** and lessons as many as they required for completing that **never-ending** education which the young people seem to require **nowadays**.

Brentwood stands on that fine and **wealthy slope** of country-one of the richest in Scotland-which lies between the Pentland Hills and the **Firth**. In clear weather you could see the blue **gleam** of the great **estuary** on one side of you; and on the other the blue heights.

India - Indie
temporary - tymczasowy
permanent - na stałe, stały, permanentny, trwały
made it - przybyć lub uzyskać wynik
peculiarly - osobliwie
appropriate - odpowiedni, właściwy, stosowny, należyty, przywłaszczyć sobie

Edinburgh - Edynburg
considerably - znacznie
neglected - zaniedbywać, zaniedbać
altogether - w ogóle, całkowicie, całkiem, zupełnie, summa summarum
tutor - dawać lekcje, udzielać korepetycji, nauczyciel prywatny, opiekun
lad - chłopak, chłopiec, młodzieniec
doubly - podwójnie
precious - cenny, drogocenny, drogi
fragile - kruchy
deeply - głęboko
sensitive - czuły, wrażliwy, drażliwy

masters - opanować, mistrz, pan, kapitan, gospodarz
never-ending - niekończący się
nowadays - w dzisiejszych czasach, teraz, obecnie, współcześnie

wealthy - bogaty, zamożny
slope - zbocze, skarpa, stok, pochylenie, nachylenie, żółtek
firth - zatoka
gleam - lśnić, błyszczyć, poświata, poblask, błysk
estuary - ujście rzeki, estuarium

Edinburgh-with its two lesser heights, the Castle and the Calton Hill, its **spires** and towers **piercing** through the smoke, and Arthur's Seat lying **crouched** behind, like a **guardian** no longer very **needful**, taking his **repose** beside the **well-beloved** charge, which is now, so to speak, able to take care of itself without him-lay at our **right hand**.

The village of Brentwood, with its **prosaic** houses, lay in a **hollow** almost under our house. Village architecture does not **flourish** in **Scotland**.

Still a **cluster** of houses on different **elevations**, with **scraps** of garden coming in between, a **hedgerow** with clothes laid out to dry, the opening of a street with its **rural sociability**, the women at their doors, the slow **wagon lumbering** along, gives a centre to the **landscape**.

In the park which **surrounded** the house were the **ruins** of the **former mansion** of Brentwood,-a much smaller and less important house than the solid **Georgian edifice** which we **inhabited**. The ruins were **picturesque**, however, and gave importance to the place. Even we, who were but temporary **tenants**, felt a **vague pride** in them, as if they **somehow** reflected a certain consequence upon ourselves.

The **old building** had the remains of a tower,-an **indistinguishable mass** of **masonwork**, **overgrown** with **ivy**; and the shells of the walls attached to this were **half filled** up with soil. At a little distance were some very **commonplace** and **disjointed fragments** of buildings, one of them suggesting a certain **pathos** by its very **commonness** and the complete **wreck** which it showed.

spires - iglica, szczyt, czubek, szpic
piercing - przenikliwy, świdrujący, rozdzierający, przebijać się, przeszyć
crouched - przykucnąć, kucać, przyczać, spiąć, gotować się
guardian - stróż, obrońca, strażnik, opiekun, opiekunka, gwardian
needful - potrzebny, potrzebujący
repose - odpocząć, odpoczywać, opierać, kłaść, odpoczynek, spokój
well-beloved - ukochany
right hand - prawy

prosaic - prozaiczny
hollow - wgłębienie, wklęsłość, kotlina, pusty
flourish - rozkwitnąć, kwitnąć, dobrze prosperować, wymachiwać, fanfara, zawijas
Scotland - Szkocja

cluster - skupisko, grono, gromada, klaster, zbitka, kasetowy
elevations - elewacje, podniesienie
scraps - złom, pobić się, skrawek, strzęp, resztki
hedgerow - żywopłot
rural - wiejski, wioskowy, sielski
sociability - towarzyskość
wagon - wóz
lumbering - (lumber) ciężko stapać, drewno, materiał
landscape - krajobraz, pejzaż

surrounded - otoczony, otaczać
ruins - ruina, rujnować, zrujnować
former - były
mansion - rezydencja
Georgian - Gruzyn, gruziński, georgiański
edifice - gmach
inhabited - zamieszkały, zamieszkiwać, zajmować, wypełniać
picturesque - malowniczy
tenants - dzierżawca, najemca
vague - niejasny
pride - pycha, zarozumiałość, duma, stado
somehow - w jakiś sposób

old building - stary budynek
indistinguishable - nie do odróżnienia
mass - gromadzić się, zbierać się, gromadzenie się, zbieranie się, masa, tłum
masonwork - prace murarskie
overgrown - zarośnięty
ivy - bluszcz
half filled - wypełniony do połowy
commonplace - pospolity, powszechny, frazes
disjointed - rozebrać, wywichnąć, zwichnąć
fragments - odłamek, ułamek, fragment

This was the end of a low **gable**, a bit of grey wall, all **incrusted** with **lichens**, in which was a common **door-way**. Probably it had been a servants' entrance, a backdoor, or opening into what are called "the offices" in Scotland.

No offices remained to be entered, -pantry and kitchen had all been **swept** out of being; but there stood the door-way open and **vacant**, free to all the **winds**, to the **rabbits**, and every wild **creature**. It **struck** my eye, the first time I went to Brentwood, like a **melancholy** comment upon a life that was over.

A door that led to nothing, -closed once, perhaps, with **anxious** care, **bolted** and guarded, now **void** of any meaning. It **impressed** me, I remember, from the first; so perhaps it may be said that my mind was prepared to attach to it an importance which nothing **justified**.

The summer was a very happy period of repose for us all; and it was when the family had **settled** down for the winter, when the days were short and dark, and the **rigorous reign** of **frost** upon us, that the **incidents** occurred which alone could **justify** me in **intruding** upon the world **my private affairs**.

I was **absent** in London when these events began.

In London an old Indian **plunges back into** the interests with which all his previous life has been **associated**, and meets old friends at every step.

I had been **circulating** among some **half-dozen** of these and had missed some of my home letters.

It is never safe to miss one's letters.

In this **transitory** life, as the **prayer-book** says, how can one ever be certain what is going to happen?

pathos - patos

commonness - powszechność, pospolitość

wreck - wrak

gable - wzgórze, szczyt

incrusted - inkrustowane

lichens - porost, liszaj

door-way - drzwi; wejście, przejście

swept - zmieciony, zamiatać, zamieść, przemknąć

vacant - wolny

winds - wiać, przewijać, pozbawić tchu, wiatr

rabbits - królik, żółtodziób

creature - istota, stworzenie, stwór

struck - uderzony, trafiać, strajkować, strajk, uderzenie

melancholy - melancholia

anxious - niespokojny, żądny

bolted - przykręcony, rzucić się do ucieczki, zaryglować, błyskawica, śruba, belt

void - próżnia, otchłań, pusty

impressed - imponować, odciskać, wywierać, piętno

justified - uzasadniać, uzasadnić, usprawiedliwiać, usprawiedliwić

settled - ustalone, rozstrzygać, osiedlać się, zasiedlać, ustalać, decydować, sadzać

rigorous - rygorystyczny

reign - rządy, panowanie

frost - mróz, oszronić, lukrować, polukrować

incidents - wydarzenie

justify - uzasadniać, uzasadnić, usprawiedliwiać, usprawiedliwić

intruding - narzucać, przeszkadzać

my private affairs - moje prywatne sprawy

absent - nieobecny

plunges - pogrążyć się, rzucać się, wpaść, zanurzać, kąpiel, gwałtowny spadek

back into - cofać by wjechać pojazdem na parking

associated - powiązane, współnik,

współpracownik, partner, kolega, kojarzyć, skojarzyć

circulating - w obiegu, cyrkulować, krążyć, kursować, obiegać

half-dozen - pół tuzina

transitory - przejściowy

prayer-book - książeczka do nabożeństwa; modlitewnik kościoła anglikańskiego

All was well at home.

I knew exactly (I thought) what they would have to say to me: "The weather has been so fine, that Roland has not once gone by train, and he enjoys the ride **beyond** anything.

"Dear **papa**, be sure that you don't forget anything, but bring us **So-and-so**, and so-and-so,"-a list as long as my arm. Dear girls and dearer mother!

I would not for the world have forgotten their **commissions**, or lost their little letters!

When I **got back to** my club, however, three or four letters were lying for me, upon some of which I noticed the "immediate," "**urgent**," which old-fashioned people and anxious people still believe will influence the post-office and **quicken** the speed of the mails.

I was about to open one of these, when the club porter brought me two **telegrams**, one of which, he said, had arrived the night before. I opened, as was to be expected, the last first, and this was what I read: "Why don't you come or answer?"

For God's sake, come.

He is much worse.

"This was a **thunderbolt** to fall upon a man's head who had one only son, and he the light of his eyes!

The other **telegram**, which I opened with hands **trembling** so much that I lost time by my **haste**, was to much the same purpose:

"No better; doctor afraid of **brain-fever**.

Calls for you day and night.

Let nothing **detain** you.

"The first thing I did was to look up the **time-tables** to see if there was any way of getting off sooner than by the **night-train**, though I knew well enough there was not; and then I read the letters, which **furnished, alas!**

too clearly, all the details. They told me that the boy had been pale for some time, with a scared look. His mother had noticed it before I left home, but would not say anything to alarm me.

beyond - poza

papa - tata

so-and-so - taki owaki (użyte zamiast obelgi); tamtą, tamtego; tego-i-tego (jeżeli nie znamy czyjegoś imienia)

commissions - komisja, prowizja, zlecać, zlecić

got back to - odezwać się do kogoś; oddzwonić lub odezwać się do kogoś kiedy będzie się miało odpowiedź; wrócić, powrócić (do wcześniej wykonywanej czynności)

urgent - pilny

quicken - przyspieszyć, przyśpieszyć, wzmóc, poruszyć

telegrams - telegram, depesza

for god's sake - na miłość boską, na litość boską

thunderbolt - piorun, grom z jasnego nieba

telegram - telegram, depesza

trembling - (tremble) zadrzeć, drzeć, trząść się, drzenie

haste - pośpiech

brain-fever - zapalenie opon mózgowych; gorączka mózgu

detain - zatrzymywać, zatrzymać

time-tables - kalendarium (np. koncertów, występów); ustalać godzinę

night-train - nocny pociąg

furnished - meblować, umeblować, dostarczyć, dostarczać, zaopatrzyć, zaopatrywać

alas - niestety

This look had increased day by day; and soon it was **observed** that Roland came home at a wild **gallop** through the park, his pony **panting** and in **foam**, himself "**as white as a sheet**," but with the **perspiration streaming** from his **forehead**.

observed - obserwować, zaobserwować, przestrzegać, obchodzić, spostrzec
gallop - cwał, galop, galopować, cwałować
panting - (pant) dyszeć, sapać, ziajać, wydyszeć, wysapać, zadyszka, zasapany
foam - pianka, piana, pienić się
as white as a sheet - błądy jak płótno
perspiration - perspiracja, pocenie się
streaming - (stream) ociekać, wylewać z siebie, strumień, płynięcie
forehead - czoło

For a **long time** he had **resisted** all questioning, but at length had developed such strange changes of mood, showing a **reluctance** to go to school, a **desire** to be **fetchd** in the **carriage** at night,-which was a **ridiculous** piece of luxury,-an **unwillingness** to go out into the grounds, and nervous start at every sound, that his mother had **insisted** upon an explanation.

long time - długo, długi czas; stary; odwieczny
resisted - opierać
reluctance - niechęć
desire - pragnąć, pożądać, pragnienie, pożądanie
fetchd - przynieść, sprowadzić, pójść po, osiągnąć wartość
carriage - przewóz, powóz, karetka, karetka
ridiculous - śmieszne, bezsensowny, absurdalny, idiotyczny
unwillingness - niechęć
insisted - nalegać

When the boy-our boy Roland, who had never known what fear was-began to talk to her of voices he had heard in the park, and **shadows** that had appeared to him among the ruins, my wife **promptly** put him to bed and sent for Dr. Simson, which, of course, was the only thing to do.

shadows - cień
promptly - natychmiast, bezzwłocznie, punktualnie

I hurried off that evening, as may be supposed, with an anxious heart.

How I got through the hours before the starting of the train, I cannot tell.

We must all be thankful for the **quickness** of the railway when in **anxiety**; but to have thrown myself into a **post-chaise** as soon as horses could be put to, would have been a **relief**.

quickness - szybkość, popędliwość, bystrość
anxiety - niepokój, trwoga, lęk
post-chaise - dyliżans
relief - ulga

I got to Edinburgh very early in the **blackness** of the winter morning, and **scarcely dared** look the man in the face, at whom I **gaped**, "What news?"

blackness - czerń
scarcely - ledwo, ledwie
dared - odważyć się, ośmielić, mieć czelność
gaped - zachłysnąć się, dyszeć, sapnąć, tchnienie

" My wife had sent the **brougham** for me, which I concluded, before the man spoke, was a bad sign.

brougham - kryty powóz jednokonny

His answer was that **stereotyped** answer which leaves the **imagination** so **wildly** free,-"Just the same.

stereotyped - stereotyp
imagination - fantazja, imaginacja, wyobraźnia, urojenie, wyobrażenie
wildly - dziko, wściekle

" Just the same!

What might that mean?"