 Do not say we have nothing

Resource 4: Language as a Motif

The following are examples of quotes that could be discussed as part of an examination of private and public language in the novel:

The things we never say aloud and so they end up here, in diaries and notebooks, in private places. By the time we discover them it’s too late.

You couldn’t live against the reality of the time but it was still possible to keep your private dreams, only they had to stay that way, intensely, powerfully private. You had to keep something for yourself, and to do that, you had to turn away from reality.

Trust the party in everything. Our land reform policy is glorious, but the people are in disarray. Still, it’s necessary work were doing.

There’s no nostalgia in it, no place for the people to share their sorrows. Of course, Big Mother continued hurriedly, in the New China such sorrows as we knew are long gone.