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*by* J T

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To Be of Use

### **Introduction**

“To be of use” by Marge Piercy is a poem with four stanzas where stanza has seven lines, stanza two is made up of four lines while stanza three consists six lines at the same time last stanza has nine lines. The poem is about the speaker’s happiness to be around those who work hard in life and depicts that hard work and perseverance pay off to such people (Piercy 9). This paper analyzes the meaning of “To be of use” as depicted in the poem.

To be of use means to have worth, and therefore those who have worth in society positively contribute to the growth of society. Concerning the poem, the poet is concerned about making her mind known when she means that the only type of people she is glad to associate herself with society is valuable people who persevere in working hard, doing honest work, and doing selfless service in the future. Notably, this is witnessed in her work when she says she desires to be surrounded by those who throw themselves to work hard (Piercy 12-13). To have worth in society, people have to work for their daily needs and not lazy around expecting manna from heaven. The poet compares those who do not choose the work they do with the Greek amphora, which was used to keep essential commodities like oil and wine (Piercy 22). From the

poem, it is evident that the poet does not like those lazy and highly regard hardworking people, for she regards them to be of use in society.

### **Conclusion**

The lazy people are of got no use in society. To be of use, as brought out by Marge Piercy, one must come out of their comfort zone to soil their hands to help society grow. The poem is very definite in calling upon people to work hard to be of use to society.

**Work Cited**

Piercy, Marge. *To be of use*. New York: Doubleday, 1973.

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