

Day 31 January 7/8

Opener: Answer this question in your notebook:

Many cultures throughout the world insist on showing great respect to old people. a) Give an example of how we show respect to our old people. b) Why should we respect old people?

Goals:

- review the "Gratitude" article
- go over "The F Train"
- know what *tall tales* and *yarns* are

Annotations - let's look

Gratitude Corrections

1. Summary

Saying thanks can help you feel better and happier. Gratitude means a "thankful appreciation ... for the goodness" in our lives. We can be thankful for the good things in our past, our present, and our future.

Scientists have shown a correlation between expressing thanks and better health, a more positive attitude, and even better personal relationships. Ways to develop a sense of gratitude include writing thank-you notes, keeping a gratitude journal, praying, and meditating.

2. The author's **tone** is admiring almost enthusiastic. [Evidence: (What does the author leave out of the section "Research on gratitude"? Look at the verb forms in the last section: what do the verb forms suggest about the author's attitude?]

3. [Underline in text]

p. 15

December 2, 2014

Dear Aunt Mabel,

Thank you so much for bringing us that pizza during last week's storm. It was incredible! No restaurant was delivering during that time and all of a sudden you showed up at our door all covered in snow yet holding a large cheese and pepperoni still hot from the oven. Wasn't that a fun afternoon, eating pizza and playing cards? You brought such cheer to our family just when I thought mom was going to "lose it" from being stuck inside with us for too long. Once again you saved the day! I owe so much more than the two dollars and fifty cents I lost to you at poker. Thank you, "Auntie M."

Sincerely,

Elements of a good thank-you note:

- Be very specific about the gift or favor you received
- Give some background or context making the gift more valuable and beneficial
- Tell how you benefited from the gift: how you used it or how you were helped by it
- Close with something friendly and cheerful
- **Remember: Even a “bad” thank-you note is better than no thank-you note.**

The F Train

1. The speaker is riding on a subway car looking at the different passengers. It is night (“tonight”) in Queens, New York City.

2. The speaker seems to feel both curious and grateful. He does not understand the language of the other passengers or the writing on their newspapers but he seems to appreciate their “graceful ... drawings,” and the “sweet murmur of sounds.” The phrase, “I’m almost home” suggests that the speaker is glad to be getting home.

3. The other passengers represent people of different countries or nationalities. They may be immigrants who have become U.S. citizens. The passengers could symbolize or stand for the countries they come from.

4. The phrase, “the train pierces and shrieks” is an example of personification.

5. “There’s no place like home” illustrates the theme of this poem. Home is a unique place we return to at the end of a difficult journey. Like Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*, people sometimes need to leave home and go to foreign places to appreciate the good qualities of their own home.

What is a *tall tale*? What is a *yarn*?

Turn to page 4 in the Poetry Packet

HW: due day 32, Read and annotate "They Have Yarns" and answer the five questions.

b) Why should we respect old people?

- we can benefit from their advice, experience, and wisdom
- The Golden Rule (some day we will be old, and will want to be treated with respect)
- we wouldn't be here (or anywhere!) without our parents, grand-parents, etc. Previous generations built our country, fought in our wars, enriched our communities and neighborhoods: we owe them!

a) by listening to their stories & experiences