

NOVEMBER 2013

THE TALK OF THE TRAILS

THANKSGIVING POEM

By Briana D.

Turkey on the table
Happiness fills the room
Aunts, uncles, grandparents
National holiday mood
Kids in the kitchen
Singing Thanksgiving songs
Giving gifts to ones you love
Inscribed with thanks for all
Veggie burgers for dinner
Icing on the cake
Not to mention ice cream
Great, let's celebrate!

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

By Briana D.

Thanksgiving is a special holiday that families celebrate together. This holiday goes back many hundreds of years in history. In 1620, the Pilgrims came to North America on the Mayflower. Unfortunately many people died during this trip across the Atlantic Ocean and the Pilgrims decided to give thanks for their survival. The first Thanksgiving took place during the fall of 1621 at Plymouth, Massachusetts and lasted for three days. Although many people tend to think that the traditional Thanksgiving foods consisted of mashed potatoes, turkey, pumpkin pies, and cranberry, this is not true! The Pilgrims ate rabbit, chicken, fish, eggs, carrots, and other kinds of foods. Still aren't surprised? The Governor of the Pilgrims invited the Wampanoag Indians to celebrate with them!

They had a wonderful feast that has resulted in today's holiday celebrated in the United States and Canada, Thanksgiving!

Source:

<http://www.whsv.com/seasonal/misc/33852054.html>

What is Your Favorite Thanksgiving Food?

By Briana D.

Turkey



(Image courtesy of <http://bit.ly/1g5hwgb>)

Mashed Potatoes



(Image courtesy of <http://bit.ly/1g5hrJu>)

Cranberry



(Image courtesy of <http://bit.ly/1g5hODH>)

Pumpkin Pie



(Image courtesy of <http://bit.ly/1g5hODH>)

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A Silly Invention; the Word "Happiness"

By Ignacio N.

All living beings are looking for happiness. No matter if it's the hungry stomach of the all mighty lion looking for joy in eating a gazelle, or the lonely heart of a mathematical genius browsing the Match.com female profile pictures. This search is just instinctive for us and it has been the same for all living beings since their first days. As we grow older, this search doesn't change, we, or sometimes life, simply or complicatedly alter our definitions of happiness.

If you take a look at our human history, we've idolized and adored many figures of our humanity. We worship Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, Mandela and many others. Yet we seem to forget their most important lessons in our everyday lives, which is selflessness. We don't love them because they were happy; we love them because they made other living beings happy. We don't love them because they were leaders; we love them because they encouraged others to lead. These complete selfless acts these specific, worshiped people performed are not god-like. We make them seem god-like because we've created a society in which doing such selfless acts is perhaps the hardest, most criticized and unthinkable thing to do.

We can't think of happiness as a materialistic thing or something related to materials. When you see people who have nothing, materialistically speaking, yet they find happiness when they share their most important possessions (like food) with other living beings, even when the receiver is not from their own specie. You have to realize, there is no

such thing as possessions. Everything is meant to be shared, and used for every living species benefit and development. That's what's wrong with our search for happiness. We tend to think that food, shelter and other things are possessions, instead of gifts that we should only think of sharing before using.

This seems like something god-like as I mentioned before right? Something that we would expect one of our glorious humanity figures to do, but never would we dare to do it ourselves? Should we accept this selfishness as part of our lives? Should we accept this hypocrisy as our ordinary and day-to-day behavior? Should we live with occasional moments of extreme empathy and awareness towards society's victims and constant moments of unconscious apathy towards these same victims, or even worse, conscious apathy towards these same victims?

Do you think happiness is not something we grow from selflessness and complete awareness of other's necessities before thinking of ours? Do you think ideally, to achieve happiness, life and society should work like the emergency oxygen mask rule of airplanes (where you have to place your oxygen mask first, before reaching to help others)...if you do, please tell me how that has worked out for anyone? Our society and search for happiness could be defined by that emergency oxygen mask rule of airplanes, and there is no need for me to tell you, just take a short stroll outside and tell me if you think it has worked for someone? We've built a world that receives selflessness with crossed, selfish arms...without realizing it's the only way to achieve what we call happiness. After reading this, I hope you realize, happiness should be a way of life and not a personal desire.

This Space Is Blank Because We Are Waiting to Hear From You!

Would you like to contribute to the Talk of the Trails? You can contribute as often as you like – there are no minimum requirements.

Stop by the “Newspaper Club” forum in the FTA Community for updates and deadlines or contact Ms. Johnson via the Message Center for more information.