

Be Thankful

By Dr. R. Pletsch



This week is Thanksgiving. A day set aside to remember those things you are thankful for. Being thankful changes from person to person according to your age and upbringing. It all starts when your family teaches what many consider essentials of life. That little phrase, please and thank you. A few examples of things that some of you would be thankful for, others won't. The Chicago Public Schools have this week off. Many students and teachers are thankful for this break and time off. But I'm not sure that is true of the parents.

Some think of what did not happen. For example your family is having success against Covid 19 or you did not have to live through a hurricane that left many homeless in Florida. I personally know a relative that came to America before his first birthday. The family was told a couple years later that had he not moved to the United States, he probably would not have seen his second birthday. The child needed medication and nutrients not available in his home country.

You can think of a thousand different things, but it means more to the kids when they think of this on their own. I had a strange experience when a 6th grade girl wrote in a story that she would be very grateful if her father was dead. Yes, some of our kids are living through a lot. Teachers, if you use something like this be prepared and pre-read. Don't promise they can all read them.

I had a student write that her family was thankful because her Pre-K brother had won a turkey in our school. Otherwise, they would have only had string beans on Thanksgiving. We can truly understand how thankful that family was and will probably remember it and somewhere down the road help some other family. My hope is this will help you think and make Thanksgiving more meaningful.