

Gratitude

BY JENNIFER DIGNAN

For this brand-new pair of purple socks
 so thick, so warm, so soft
 and also that my family could afford these socks
 and also that I have plenty of other socks
 and also that my feet, inside these socks
 carried me through my day
 down the hallways of my school
 across the cafeteria to my friends
 up the stairs to my violin lesson
 and also that my feet will carry me home
 where it's warm and safe and dry
 where there is plenty to eat
 where my parents will hug me
 and my dog will spin in circles of dizzy joy
 where, when darkness falls and all goes quiet
 I will climb into bed
 after pulling off
 these wonderful socks

Gratitude is a feeling of appreciation or thanks. As you read, think about how this title relates to the rest of the poem.

Here the poet uses *repetition*. What phrase does she repeat? How does it affect the sound and meaning of the poem?

What makes these socks so wonderful? (Hint: Think about how these socks are related to everything else the poet talks about in the poem.)

YOUR TURN: Write your own poem about gratitude using this one as a model. (Teachers: Find a poem-writing template at scholastic.com/action.)

DOODLE ART BY ADAM HAYES, GERRIT PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES (SOCKS)



Name: _____

Write Your Own Gratitude Poem

In "Gratitude," poet Jennifer Dignan describes how one item (a pair of socks) plays a role in many areas of a person's life.

Directions: Write your own gratitude poem using the original poem as a model. First think of something you're thankful to have (anything from your glasses to your backpack to your great singing voice).

Then think of a few other things you're thankful for that are related to the first thing. (For instance, if you're thankful for your family's car, you might mention some places you like to go in the car or some songs you enjoy on long drives.) End your poem with a line that mentions the original item again.

Gratitude

For _____
(Name the item you're going to write about.)

(Give a few details about the item.)

Name: _____

Write Your Own Gratitude Poem

(continued)

and also that _____
(Name a related fact or item that you're grateful for.)

and also that _____
(Name another related fact or item that you're grateful for.)

and also that _____
(List one more thing you like about your life. End this line by again mentioning the first item.)
