

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: The Value of Being Thankful

In the United States, the fourth Thursday of the month of November is designated a public holiday of “Thanksgiving.” The tradition of Thanksgiving comes from the first settlers, the Pilgrims, who settled in the North East, in what is now Massachusetts. The Pilgrims set aside a day in the fall of 1621 to feast and thank God for helping them survive the winter and harvest enough to help them get through the next winter. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of Thanksgiving to remember blessings.

In your groups, have each person choose a question to ask the others. Take turns sharing your answers.

May these questions help to spark the spirit of Thanksgiving!

20 Questions for Thanksgiving

--by Karen Horneffer-Ginter, Nov 22, 2012

- 1) What teacher are you most thankful for and why? What did you learn from him or her?
- 2) What’s the season you’re most thankful for, and what’s your favorite part of each season?
- 3) What electronic device are you most grateful for, and what does it add to your life?
- 4) What musician or type of music are you most thankful for?
- 5) What are you most grateful for that brings beauty to your daily life?

- 6) What form of exercise or physical activity are you most thankful for?
- 7) What foods are you most thankful for?
- 8) What local store or restaurant are you most grateful for? How does it contribute to your quality of life?
- 9) What book are you most grateful for, and why?
- 10) What act of kindness has made the greatest difference in your life?

- 11) What challenging experience has ended up changing your life for the better?
- 12) What form of art are you most thankful for: music, acting, writing, painting, drawing . . . something else?
- 13) What place do you feel most grateful for and why?
- 14) Name three days in your life that you feel especially grateful for.
- 15) What color do you feel most thankful for—is there a color that you can’t imagine living without?

- 16) Is there a personal limitation or flaw that you’ve come to appreciate?
- 17) What vacation are you most grateful for?
- 18) What philanthropic cause or organization do you feel thankful for?
- 19) What product do you use on a daily basis that you most appreciate?
- 20) What, from this year, do you feel most grateful for?

*How does your country/culture/family encourage the attitude of thanksgiving?
Why do you think the attitude of being thankful is important?
Why do you think it is so easy to forget to be thankful?*

*Look at the painting. Describe what you see; what do you notice.
What questions would you like to ask the artist?
Does the painting suggest a story? What might the story be?*



Henry Ossawa Tanner. *The Thankful Poor*, 1894. Oil on Canvas, 90.17 x 112.4 cm. Private Collection

Take a few minutes to write a note to thank someone for a kindness they have shown to you.