



### **Class Presentation: Respecting My Elders (due 9/29)**

Cynthia Rylant's "Papa's Parrot" and Langston Hughes's "Thank You, M'am" are two stories that feature a young man learning to appreciate a "father figure." Throughout our youths, we all find ourselves changed by the guidance of the people around us who are a little older and a lot wiser. In this assignment, the goal is to **write and present a sentimental and personal three paragraph tribute to an elder who has impacted your life in a positive way.** To decide on an appropriate subject, use the brainstorming bubble chart completed in class.

**In order to be considered an elder, your subject must be at least 5 years older than you.** (if you wish to write a second tribute to someone closer to you in age, you may do so for extra credit)

*When you are writing your assignment, follow this structure...*

#### **Paragraph 1- Thank You, Blank**

*Everyone's first sentences will be: "Thank You, \_\_\_\_\_. Thank You for always being \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."*

*Spend the next 4-6 sentences describing all the things that make this person so great.*

#### **Paragraph 2- Personal Anecdote**

*Write a 7-9 sentences short story about a specific time when this person really made a difference in your life. Be specific, and include details like your age, the specific place, and who you were with when this moment happened.*

#### **Paragraph 3- Because of You**

*End the tribute by writing 5-6 sentences about how you your future will be different because of this person's influence. Tell them the life lessons they taught you, and make a promise to them about your future behavior, attitude, life choices, etc. (ie, I promise you that I will never forget to put my name on my papers in the top-right hand corner)... You forgot, didn't you? Go ahead. Do it now. I'll wait.*

### **PRESENTATION**

As your first oral presentation of the year, you will be reading your tribute to the class. Please keep this in mind as you write, so as to not share anything that is too personal. If you are uncomfortable talking about this subject, please pick another person from your bubble chart.

**Your tribute does not need to be memorized, but it must be checked for grammar errors so that it will make sense when read aloud. Also, please keep all assignments under two pages out of courtesy.**

Also, as part of your presentation, please have a printed copy of this person's picture. Please, no group shots, as this does not make the person seem special to your audience.

**NO RARE OR IRREREPLACABLE PICTURES ALOUD!** If your family would be heartbroken if this picture got lost, please use a different one. Black and white or color is acceptable.

