

What are you thankful for?



Kim Linear, 15

I'm thankful for the chance to live and enjoy life. I'm thankful for my brother and parents and the support they give me. That makes me a stronger person and teaches me to be responsible for myself and helps me to understand my responsibility to others. I feel lucky to be in this country. I wish some children in Ethiopia could come to this country and have a chance to live and understand what happiness is.



Richard Roberts, 10

I'm glad my family all gets together for a feast on Thanksgiving. My grandmother cooks all day—all kinds of good food, like turkey, pies and yams. My uncles, aunts and cousins come from all over the place. It's so much fun. I'm so lucky because I have a mom and dad that care for me. I have my health. I can think and I can do anything in the world I want to. I'm learning to read and write because it is important. If you can't read or write it's pretty hard to live.



Jeuan Marks, 11

I'm thankful for what God has given us and wish He could make Thanksgiving as good for everyone. I wish everyone could be happy. I wish they would not do drugs and not get in trouble with the law. I wish people wouldn't hate and would just be friends. God doesn't want us to fight. He made this planet for us to have a chance to live in peace together. I am thankful for this day and hope all the young mothers have healthy, smart babies.



Bobby Philley, 14

I'm thankful for enough to eat and that there is not a war going on here. I'm thankful for the freedom to vote, to make my own decisions, to dress as I like, to listen to the music I like, to say what I want, and to read almost anything I want. We are free as long as we respect the rights of others. We have a choice to be what we want to be. But if you really want something, you have to work for it.



Achara Rounseville, 9

I'm thankful for having a family that cares for me and for being alive. I have the chance to discover new things. I'm thankful for the peace talks that might avoid a nuclear war. I'm thankful for older people who care about kids. If they didn't, kids could be in real trouble. I'm glad there are hospitals that take care of sick people and for a good education so when I grow up I can get a job. I'm thankful for having a happy life.

KID TALK

Dear Young American,

Young American is a very interesting and worthwhile magazine for the young and not so young in years.

The article entitled "What is the Richter Scale" (October 1985) states that an earthquake registering 8 points is a million times more serious than one registering 4 points.

As I understand the scale, each full number represents a ten fold increase or, in this instance, 8 would be 10,000 times more serious than the 4. In either event the Mexico City earthquake was a "great" quake.

Sincerely,
Chalmers Thornber
Sandy, Oregon

Checking with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry cleared up the facts. You are absolutely right, and we made a "great" mistake.

Dear *Young American*,

I am the writer of "Stuffed animals have feelings" and I would love to write more articles. My problem is I do not know what to write about. Could you possibly give me some advice?

Thank you for publishing my article. I enjoyed seeing it printed in the *Young American*.

Mary Ellen Boyd

Dear Mary Ellen and other writers,
Be a reporter for the *Young Ameri-*

can. We want to publish more stories by kids. This is your newspaper. Write about things that are interesting to you. Chances are those things are interesting to our other readers. We are especially interested in hearing about great things kids are doing. Or send us poems or drawings. If your material gets published, you will get paid 7 cents per word. We look forward to reading lots of stories from our readers soon.

Should AIDS victims be let in school

By David S. Masonoff, 13,
Woodbridge, Virginia

In my opinion, AIDS victims should not be allowed in schools. I believe they would spread the AIDS disease around

to friends, neighbors and classmates. Next it would cause a chain reaction because, in my point of view, it would spread around until either everybody in the world has AIDS or someone does something about it.

I maintain as Dr. Ronald Rosenblatt has said, "It is medically unsound, carrying a virus which is that fatal, actually, should not be in the classroom."

"The state laws (in Virginia) give the superintendents the authority to exclude children from school if they feel the child has a communicable disease," department spokesman Harry Smith stated. "There has been a memo sent out on AIDS students which reiterates guidelines set up to deal with AIDS and other diseases," Smith said.

There is no doubt AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, destroys the immunity system of its

victims, leaving them vulnerable to other serious diseases, such as cancer. It primarily attacks homosexual or bisexual men, intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs and children of AIDS victims.

In fact, it's not really the kids' fault that they have AIDS. Therefore, they don't stop to think that if they go to school they will spread the AIDS disease.

In conclusion, AIDS is an affliction in which the body's immune system becomes unable to resist diseases. I question whether AIDS victims should be allowed in public schools.

Kid Talk allows our readers to discuss topics that interest them. The views published are not necessarily those of the editors. Letters for publication should be mailed to *Young American Kid Talk*, P.O. Box 12409, Portland, OR 97212.



Kiki's Korner

Hi Kids!

This is KiKi Vandeweghe of the Portland Trail Blazers. First of all, I want to thank all of you for your wonderful letters last year. I read every one and enjoyed them all. Unfortunately, I could not answer every one. But never fear. You have another chance this year. Just write to me: KiKi Vandeweghe, c/o *Young American*, P.O. Box 12409, Portland, OR 97212.

Any question or problem you might

have at home, school or anywhere. Just write in and we will talk about it in the *Young American*. Every letter will be read by me, and I will send you an autographed picture just for writing. The writers whose letters appear in the *Young American* will receive an official Trail Blazer basketball, autographed by the Blazers, and a free lunch with me. So write in soon. I will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Your friend,
KiKi

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