

Name: _____ Date: _____

YOUR Gratitude Poem

Directions: After reading Jennifer Dignan's poem "Gratitude," complete the activity "Analyzing Poetry." Then follow the directions below to write your own "Gratitude" poem about what *you* are grateful for.

- 1** Dignan begins her poem by naming something simple that she is grateful for: a pair of purple socks. In the box, write something simple that you are grateful for.

something simple that you are grateful for

- 2** Dignan includes some details about the socks in the first two lines of her poem, noting that they are brand-new, purple, thick, warm, and soft. Brainstorm some words and phrases you could use to describe the thing you chose in Step 1.

descriptive words and phrases

- 3** Now think about how the thing you chose is connected to other things in your life that you are grateful for. Jot down ideas in response to the questions below and on the next page. If a certain question doesn't make sense with what you chose in Step 1, skip that question.

What made it possible for you to have this thing?

When and where do you use this thing?

Who do you interact with when you use this thing?

Jot down any other things that you are grateful for that connect to this thing.

4 Look back at what you brainstormed in Step 3. Highlight or star the ideas you like best and want to include in your poem. (If you think of anything to add while you are doing this, go ahead and add it!)

5 Now it's time to write the first draft of your poem. Use Dignan's "Gratitude" as a model to write your own "Gratitude" poem about what YOU are grateful for.

Write your poem on your own piece of paper. Be sure to

- start with the thing you chose in Step 1. Include a few details about it.
- have everything you name clearly connect to the thing you chose in Step 1.
- include repetition of words or phrases somewhere in the poem, the way Dignan does.
- end your poem by coming back to the thing you chose in Step 1, the way Dignan ends her poem by coming back to the socks.

6 After you finish your first draft, read it aloud, paying attention to the way it sounds. Does it flow like lyrics in a good song? If not, can you make the rhythm more pleasing? Sometimes a little change, like switching the placement of a few words, can make a big difference.

7 Optionally, decorate your finished poem with doodles like the ones that decorate Dignan's poem on page 32 of the March issue of *Scope*. (You could also use pictures cut out from magazines or printed from the internet.) Your doodles or pictures should reflect ideas and images from your poem.