



Today we have mighty expectations even for the mundane. When you think about it, it's a bit of a miracle that we rarely give a thought as to who grows the pumpkins and corn, but we expect them to be there when we want them. So, on Thanksgiving, give a thought to the mighty little expectations of the founders and count your blessings. Have a great holiday!

SOMETHING ELSE TO BE THANKFUL FOR —

A FRIEND

*There is no greater blessing
Than an understanding friend
Who's there in times of trouble
And on whom we can depend —
Who shares our happy moments
And brightens cloudy days,
A friend who's slow to criticize
But quick to offer praise,
A friend who knows the faults
we have*

*But loves us as we are —
Of all the blessings life can bring,
A friend's the best by far!*

~Amanda Bradley



Chalk Talk cont'd

The third stands for our own courage and how it helps us to do great things for others and for ourselves.

The fourth is to give thanks to the Pilgrims who came to the New World and established a land of religious freedom.

The fifth stands for our gratitude which leads to joy. That joy leads us to a renewed commitment to family and country.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving traditions

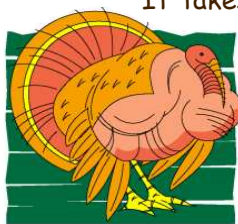
Food, family and football

If you have a family and an extended family, you may have spent most Thanksgivings going over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house.

Once there, you asked the Lord's blessing on this gathering of aunts, uncles, cousins and second-cousins. Individually, they have a lot of things to be grateful for, like health, work, their kids, and a sunny day.

After the blessing each year comes the main event, the food. There is usually turkey and dressing, ham and sweet potatoes. And Thanksgiving wouldn't be the same without pumpkin pie, oysters and one of those mystery dishes brought by your aunt.

Grandma and the others may think they can plan around football, but the National Football League has outsmarted them by having three games on Thanksgiving Day 2008. This year Tennessee plays Detroit. Seattle will be at Dallas, and Arizona will be at Philadelphia.



It takes planning and skill to get the most out of Thanksgiving Day football. Writer James Alder recommends arriving early so you can hang around the kitchen and chat with Grandma while sampling the delicacies. He says this is good because Grandma will love you for it, and Christmas is just around the corner.

You may not like Alder's point of view, but you can't quibble with his next advice. As people begin to arrive, move into the living room and claim the most comfortable chair. With your supply of snacks, check out the pre-game show and settle in. If someone snatches your chair after dinner, watch them like a hawk. Reclaim your spot if they leave even for a moment.

CHALK TALK

Five grains of corn

The Pilgrims and their benefactors from Massasoit's tribe feasted for several days at the first Thanksgiving. It was a time of plenty, but the days before that harvest were far different. Five grains of corn was the daily ration during that desperate time.

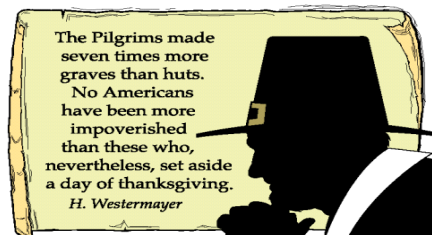
Legend says that the Pilgrims placed five grains of corn beside each plate on Thanksgiving Day so they wouldn't forget. The corn also reminded them of difficult days on the tiny Mayflower and of a time when there were only seven healthy colonists to care for the sick.

Some people follow that custom today. They say each grain of corn has a special significance.

The first reminds us to be thankful because the earth is good and our land is free.

The second acknowledges Indians who befriended the Pilgrims and helped them survive their first winter.

Cont'd on left



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

On Thanksgiving Day, all over America, families sit down to dinner at the same moment - halftime. ~ Author Unknown

Turkey Trivia

1. How many turkeys are eaten at Thanksgiving?
2. What is the weight of the heaviest dressed turkey recorded in 1989 (in pounds)?
3. In 1941, which president signed the bill establishing the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day?
4. How many pounds of turkey does the average person in the U.S. eat per year? *See answers below.*

The kids' Thanksgiving table

With many people at Thanksgiving dinner, children are often seated at a card table apart from adults. To make the card table more interesting, you can decorate it and give the kids special treats. You or your children could wrap the table legs with red, orange, and yellow crepe paper.

Provide silly straws, candy corn or kisses, and napkin holders shaped like pumpkins. If there's time, let kids make Indian and Pilgrim headbands. Make it special.



Saying the blessing

A wife invited some people to Thanksgiving dinner.

At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say,"

the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

~

Where's the molasses?



Early settlers of the North American continent were devoted to the pumpkin for their Thanksgiving pies. According to legend, one year the molasses necessary for baking pumpkin pies was found to be in short supply. The holiday was therefore delayed until such time as the pumpkin pies could be prepared.

While we recall the Pilgrims during the Thanksgiving holiday, we don't give much thought to them the rest of the year. One little known fact: There are zero cities named Pilgrim, but there was one township in Missouri. By comparison, there are three U.S. places and 11 townships named Turkey, and eight places named Cranberry.

~

A sign of the times

A teacher was trying to get her class to understand how the Indians must have felt when they first encountered the Spanish explorers.

"How would you feel if someone showed up at your doorway who looked very different, spoke a strange language, and wore odd-looking clothes? Wouldn't you be a little scared?"

"Nah," one boy answered, "I'd just figure it was my sister's date."

~

Answers to Turkey Trivia:

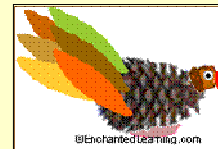
1. 45 million; 2. 86 lbs.; 3. Franklin D. Roosevelt; 4. 18 pounds.

November Project

Pine Cone Turkey Craft

Supplies:

- An acorn or a nut in the shell
- Brown, red, orange and yellow construction paper
- Pencil or marker
- Scissors
- A pine cone
- Googly eye(s)



Cut out construction paper feathers

Put a small blob of clay on one side of the pine cone to steady it on the table. The pine cone will be the turkey's body.

Glue the "feathers" to the top of the wide side of the pine cone.



Glue the acorn to the front of the turkey using hot glue. Glue on two googly eyes and a small piece of red construction paper (for the turkey's wattle). Let the glue set.

You now have a great Thanksgiving table turkey decoration. To avoid staining a tablecloth with the clay, put the turkey on a small plate.

~

A Thanksgiving Fable



It was a hungry pussy cat,
upon Thanksgiving morn,
And she watched a
thankful little mouse,
that ate an ear of corn.

"If I ate that thankful little mouse,
how thankful he should be,
When he has made a meal himself,
to make a meal for me!

"Then with his thanks for having fed,
and his thanks for feeding me,
With all his thankfulness inside,
how thankful I shall be!"

Thus mused the hungry pussy cat,
upon Thanksgiving Day;
But the little mouse had overheard
and declined (with thanks) to stay.

~ Oliver Herford