

THANKSGIVING QUIZ

What Kind of Grateful Are You?

By Rabbi Debra Orenstein

Circle the answer that most closely approximates your reaction and top priority in each situation:

1. There is a huge snowstorm, and you are snowed in. You:
 - a. Feel grateful that you are inside and have heat!
 - b. Gaze out the window, noticing the beauty of the unsullied snow.
 - c. Huddle together with your family and enjoy the unexpected time together.
 - d. Plan and tackle a fun project.

2. You won the lottery! As you make your financial plan, you want to be sure to allocate money for:
 - a. Those less fortunate. There are millions of hungry and enslaved people in the world. You have so much, and others have too little!
 - b. Ecological efforts. Whether in the United States, Israel, or elsewhere, you want to plant trees, support alternative fuels, encourage responsible fishing and farming – in short, protect the earth.
 - c. Your community. You will dedicate funds to your faith community, your neighborhood, or the like. The people and organizations you feel closest to need help to do their good work.
 - d. Endowments, especially for education and/or infrastructure. It is important to ensure stability for the long term.

3. You attend a high school reunion, and it turns out that the people you had been friendly with do not show up. You hardly know the folks who came.
 - a. It's too bad, but it really could be worse. You could be home sick, like one friend who didn't make it.
 - b. The organizers did a lovely job with the food, décor, and music. There is lots to enjoy this evening.
 - c. You enjoy a date with the person you came with, and talk to the people at your table.
 - d. This gives you an opportunity to make some new friends.

4. Someone close to you reaches a goal that has been their life's dream. You:
 - a. Remember all the obstacles they overcame. It makes their achievement all the more amazing!
 - b. Buy them a special token – plaque, piece of art or jewelry, “world's best teacher” trophy – as a gift and a reminder of their achievement.
 - c. Make a party for them, to celebrate this great achievement.
 - d. Give them a gift that will assist them for the next leg of their amazing journey.

5. You are on a beautiful island resort with your family.
 - a. You think of how lucky you are. Not everyone gets to come here, and you've been so fortunate with perfect weather every day.
 - b. You spend a lot of time outdoors enjoying the natural beauty. Just looking out at the sea fills you up.
 - c. The most meaningful part of this vacation is that you are enjoying it with your family.
 - d. A big part of your enjoyment comes from anticipating the memories, as you imagine your future self looking back on this trip.

6. You are very close to a vibrant, elderly relative. She dies suddenly.
 - a. You're sad, but also know that you are fortunate – and she was, too. She lived a long life and had all her faculties until the end.
 - b. You are comforted by the beauty of the trees and rolling hills at the cemetery.
 - c. Having family and friends around you makes it more bearable. She would have loved this gathering.
 - d. You feel inspired to stay in touch with her kids and with other elderly relatives.

7. It's Thanksgiving. It really helps you to feel truly thankful when
 - a. you serve food at a homeless shelter.
 - b. you lavish time on details like preparing place cards that will greet your guests or choosing and wrapping a hostess gift with care.
 - c. everyone is gathered around the table.
 - d. you learn what is new in people's lives, as you catch up after not seeing some of these folks for a long time.