

The Future of the “Seven at the Golden Shovel”

Imagine yourself as someone who was in the Golden Shovel in 1959. Compose a fictional text that demonstrates how those days in the pool hall influenced who you are today, so many years later. Compose your response in whatever format is appropriate for the character (e.g., a sermon, a dialogue, a letter, lyrics).

Tips:

1. Read back through your journal entry and notes on the future of the characters to find some ideas to begin your work. Also review the list of futures that the class has brainstormed for starting places.
2. Think through your audience and purpose from the character’s perspective. You’ll need to consider these questions:
 - Audience: Who is the character telling the story to? What do you know about this audience—do they know about the character’s past? have they heard of the Golden Shovel? What is the audience’s perspective on the past and present of the character who is telling the story?
 - Purpose: Why is the character telling the story? We know that the character is showing the influence of the days at the Golden Shovel; but what does the character want listeners or readers to think? What does the character want the audience to do or think as a result of learning about the days at the Golden Shovel?
3. Use a conversational, friendly, informal tone. Make it sound as if the character is telling his or her story in a way that shows why the days at the Golden Shovel were valuable or a waste.
4. Think widely of the people in the pool hall. The poem focuses on the seven pool players, but there are probably many other people in the Golden Shovel. Anyone in the pool hall could be the focus of your project.