

Name _____

Date _____

A Celebration of Grandfathers (page 455)

Active Reading SkillBuilder

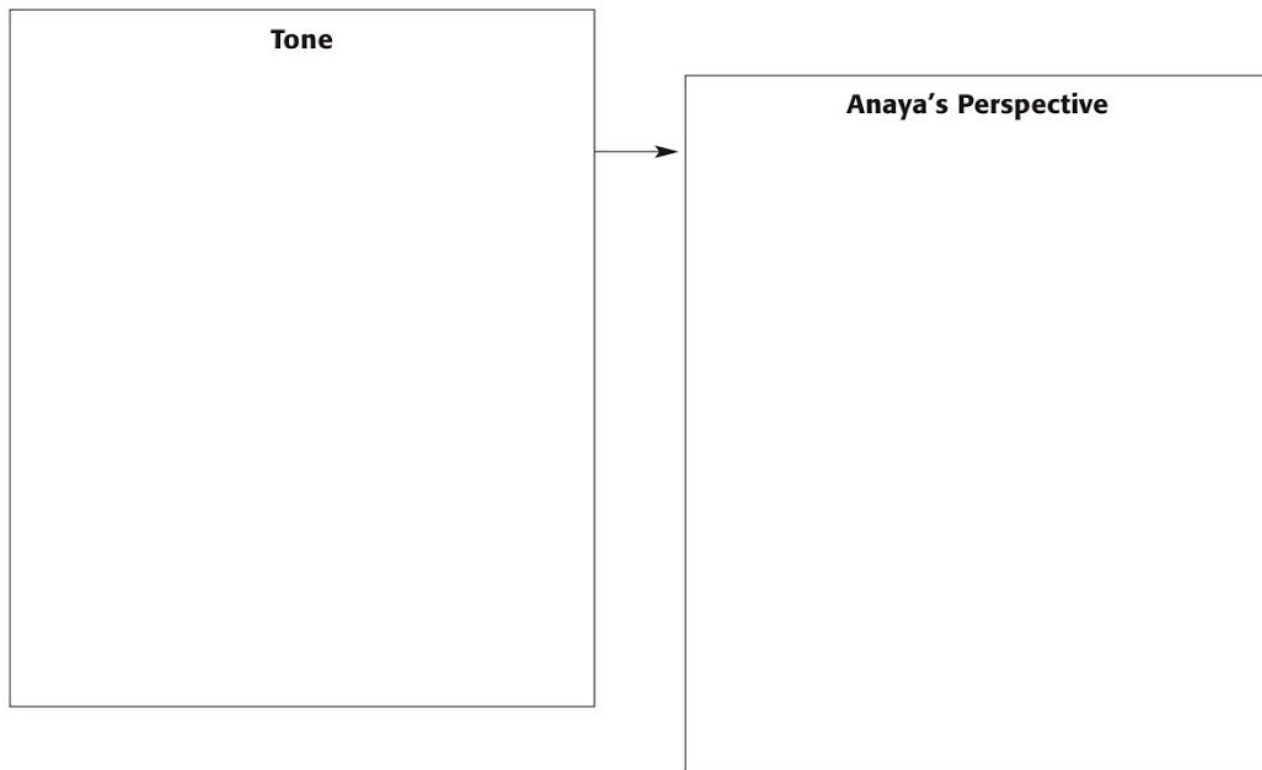
Identifying Author's Purpose

Author's purpose refers to a writer's main reason for writing. Writers of nonfiction usually write for one or more of the following purposes: to inform; to express ideas, opinions, and feelings; to analyze; to persuade; or to entertain. When reading Anaya's memoir, determine his purpose by looking for facts about people or places, his comments about these facts, explanations of how a subject works or is defined, statements that try to convince you of something, and passages that you find particularly enjoyable. Use the chart below to record statements from the essay that you think indicate Anaya's purpose(s) for writing.

Statements	Purpose

A Celebration of Grandfathers (page 455)**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Author's Perspective and Tone**

An **author's perspective** is the set of beliefs, feelings, and values he or she displays in a work of literature. Recognizing **tone**, or a writer's attitude toward a subject, helps readers understand this perspective. Use the diagram below to illustrate the relationship between tone and author's perspective. In the left box, write three adjectives that best describe the tone of the piece. Then, in the right box, identify the perspective you can infer from this tone.



Follow Up: Write a brief paragraph describing Anaya's perspective and tone in this memoir. Indicate ways that the tone of the piece contributes to Anaya's perspective.

Commonly Confused Verbs

- Some verbs are close in meaning or appearance and are often confused. For example, *can* means “able to,” and *may* means “allowed to.”

Can—able to I **can** speak Spanish.

May—allowed to **May** we please speak in Spanish?

- The following are some commonly confused verbs.

Verbs	Examples
adapt to adjust to something adopt (1) to take into one’s family (2) to take on and follow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We adapt ourselves to changing times. The children were adopted by new parents. She adopted a new work schedule.
discover to find knowledge for the first time invent to create for the first time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He discovered a galaxy. She invented a new machine.
imply to hint or to suggest infer to draw a conclusion based on reason or evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marilyn implied the answer with a hint. We inferred the answer from her expression.
aggravate to make worse irritate to annoy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My cold was aggravated by bad weather. The bad weather irritated me and made me angry.
adhere to stick together fast, as with glue cohere to hold together as one mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With Velcro™, fabric adheres. If our group does not cohere, it will fall apart.

Exercise: Choosing the Correct Verb

Underline the correct verb in each sentence below.

- Alice Walker’s “Everyday Use” was written when many African Americans were (discovering, inventing) their heritage.
- Many people, like Dee Wangero, (adopted, adapted) African names and fashions, which they thought had been taken from them.
- When Dee comes home to visit her mother, she insults and (irritates, aggravates) her.
- Maggie is nervous and (adheres, coheres) to her mother’s side.
- Dee (aggravates, irritates) the situation by demanding certain things.
- She (implies, infers) that she is superior to the rest of her family.
- Dee asks if she (may, can) take some old quilts with her.
- Her mother tells her that she (cannot, may not) have them.
- She is saving them for her other daughter, who will (adapt, adopt) them for everyday use.
- From the story, one can (infer, imply) that the author is critical of people like Dee.

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Selection Quiz

Read over the questions and think about the ideas presented in the memoir. Then answer each question in sentences or phrases.

1. When Anaya was a child, what were the important things that the young learned from the old?

2. Why was prayer such an important part of his grandfather's life?

3. What advice did his grandfather give Anaya when, as a boy, he had difficulty learning English?

4. According to Anaya, how should we deal with the process of old age and death?

5. Why does Anaya think that the people of his grandfather's generation must have been strong?

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Selection Test

A. One element that helps you understand an author's perspective is tone, or the author's attitude toward his or her subject. Think about Anaya's tone in this memoir as you read the excerpt below. Then, in the boxes, write notes to answer each question. (10 points each)

Excerpt	
"The old people I remember from my childhood were strong in their beliefs, and as we lived daily with them, we learned a wise path of life to follow. They had something important to share with the young, and when they spoke, the young listened. These old <i>abuelos</i> and <i>abuelitas</i> had worked the earth all their lives, and so they knew the value of nurturing, they knew the sensitivity of the earth. . . ."	
1. What is the tone of this excerpt?	2. What words and phrases help to reveal the tone?
3. What is the author's perspective on old people?	

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (8 points each)

- _____ 1. What does Anaya feel is happening among young people today?
- a. They are beginning to appreciate their heritage.
 - b. They have come to understand the importance of farming.
 - c. They are losing touch with their past.
 - d. They all want to become writers.
- _____ 2. Anaya believes that everyone can benefit from
- a. listening to advice from anyone who farms.
 - b. learning the wisdom that older people possess.
 - c. returning home.
 - d. becoming a writer.

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- _____ 3. The strongest sensory image that Anaya has of his grandfather is the
- feel of his strong hands.
 - sound of his voice.
 - way he looked.
 - way he smelled of earth and sweat.
- _____ 4. The author's grandfather compared dying to
- falling leaves.
 - a horse that must be broken.
 - a dry *acequia*.
 - orchards of ripe fruit.

C. Answer **one** of the following questions based on your understanding of "A Celebration of Grandfathers." Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

1. What does the author mean when he says, "We need to know where we stand"? Use details from the selection to support your ideas.
2. In his memoir, Anaya says, "A new time did come; a new time is here." What important lessons from the past does he feel that we need in order to shape our future in this "new time"? Use details from the selection to support your answer.

D. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (18 points)

Years ago, most families grew up surrounded by family members. Today, grandparents and aunts and uncles may live in other states or even in other countries. What do you think are the advantages of having a close-knit family? What are the possible disadvantages? Explain your opinion.