Trevor Coleman

Reading response to Advice to Youth

In the speech “Advice to Youth”, by Mark Twain, He gives advice to the younger generation. He uses this speech to give advice about listening to their parents, respecting others, lying, going to bed early, handling firearms and reading. He uses sarcasm to gain the attention of his audience and to explain his reasons for his advice.

Twain gives his advice about listening to their parents he uses sarcasm to grab the attention of his audience. He tells them they should listen to their parents only when they are around. He explains to his audience about how parents believe they know better then them and that they will get farther in life if they just humor their parents when there around. I really like who Twain words this because he understands that he can not just tell children to listen to their parents or he will instead sound like everyone else and they will just tune him out. Instead he tells them what they want to here in a way where he is still encouraging them to listen to their parents.

Twain also gives advice on respecting others. Twain uses sarcasm here to show the to give an outlandish example on why you should always respect others and that violence is never the answer. He sarcastically tells his audience that if anyone offends them to just hit them with a brick. Twain does this to capture his young audience and to show them how crazy and extreme using violence as an answer can become. He follows that by telling his audience that violence is not the answer and to avoid it. “Leave the dynamite to the low and unrefined” he uses this quote to tell his audience that that resorting to violence is for the people who are not good people and that they are a better then that.

When giving his advice on lying Twain uses sarcasm and blunt honesty to explain his point on why lying when done write can be good but it is easier and better to just tell the truth in the first place. Here he mentions How most people say the youth ought to never lie but he points out that lying is not always bad and says that if you are going to lie you can’t just tell a single clumsy lie or it will get instead get you in trouble. Instead to tell a good lie takes a lot of practice and hard work. He truthfully tells that the truth will not always prevail. He uses this to show them that there are a lot of lies out there and sometimes you won’t get rewarded for telling the truth. He follows this by telling them that you need to avoid small and clumsy lies because you will get caught and it will ruin your reputation and that all in all it’s easier and better to just tell the truth to begin with.