Thinking Critically about This Reading

What does Goldberg mean when she states, “Give things the dignity of their names” (paragraph 1)?

She means that we should be specific in our lives.

Why, according to Goldberg, should writers refer to things by their specific names?

Because it can penetrate more deeply into the beingness of the specific thing.

Questions for Study and Discussion

1. What is Goldberg’s thesis and where does she state it?

We should be specific. In the first paragraph.

1. How does Goldberg “specifically” follow the advice she gives writers in this essay?

She listed lots of examples for us to understand the thesis. And she told us how should we do to be specific.

1. Goldberg makes several lists of the names of things. What purpose do these lists serve? (Glossary: Purpose)

They gave us a concrete example for being specific. They can help us understand what the author tried to convey.

1. Throughout the essay, Goldberg instructs the reader to be specific and to be aware of the physical world.

Month day and the moment.

Of what besides names is the reader advised to be aware? Why?

1. In paragraphs 3, 5, and 6, Goldberg cites a number of advantages to be gained by knowing the names of things. What are these advantages? Do they ring true to you?

First, it can bring us closer to the ground. Second, it takes the blue out of our mind. Third, it connects us to the earth. Fourth, it makes us feel more awake.

Of course yes.

1. What specific audience does Goldberg address? (Glossary: Audience)

Writers? She told us a lot of examples from other writers and gave us suggestions about writing.