

“You Get Proud by Practicing”

Connection Questions

Directions: Discuss and then record your ideas about the following close-reading questions in the space provided for the poem “You Get Proud by Practicing.”

1. In the beginning of the poem, the speaker lists things “you do not need” to be proud. Did anything in this list surprise you? Why or why not?

2. The poem shifts from what “you do not need” to be proud to a list of what “you can do” to be proud. At the end of the list, the speaker says:

These are all ways
of getting proud.
None of them
are easy, but all of them
are possible. You can do all of these things,
or just one of them again and again.
You get proud
by practicing.

Look back at each place the speaker says “you can” in the poem. Do any of the examples inspire you to do something “again and again” to practice being proud? Why or why not?