Unit 4, Part 1

Looking for America

Click the mouse button or press the space bar to continue
Part 1

Seeing Another Side

Looking for America
Elizabeth Partridge
(pages 450–460)

Before You Read

Reading the Selection

After You Read
For pages 450–460

In studying this text, you will focus on the following objectives:

**Literary Study:** Analyzing style.

**Reading:** Distinguishing fact and opinion.

**Writing:** Writing a letter.
Meet Elizabeth Partridge

Click the picture to learn about the author.

For more about Elizabeth Partridge, go to glencoe.com and enter QuickPass code GL19756u4.
Connect to the Essay

Think about a time when it seemed as though one set of rules applied to you and another set of rules applied to others.

Quickwrite  Freewrite for a few minutes about the two sets of rules. Was this fair treatment? Is it ever fair to have different rules for different people?
The events in Elizabeth Partridge’s essay take place during the summer of 1963 in Atlanta, Georgia.

- In the American South at that time, laws kept African Americans segregated, or separated, from whites. These laws were known as Jim Crow laws.
Build Background

• It was against the law for African Americans and whites to eat at the same restaurants, sit together on buses or trains, or go to school together.

• It was also against the law for African Americans to use bathrooms or drinking fountains labeled “Whites Only.” Bathrooms and drinking fountains for African Americans were not always available.
architect *n.* one whose profession is to design, draw plans for, and help create buildings (p. 453) *The architect designed a house made mostly of glass.*

beckoned *v.* signaled, summoned, or directed by a sign or gesture (p. 455) *Her father beckoned her to come inside and eat dinner.*
Before You Read

radiating v. moving or spreading outward from a center (p. 458) *The warmth from the fire was radiating throughout the room.*

discomfort n. uneasiness; hardship; pain (p. 459) *The discomfort he felt in the hot car was almost unbearable.*

buffet v. to strike repeatedly; to knock against (p. 459) *The strong winds buffet the students as they walk to school.*
Set Purposes for Reading

**BQ** BIG Question

As you read, ask yourself, what does the narrator learn about fairness during her trip?
Set Purposes for Reading

**Literary Element** Style

**Style** is the author’s choice and arrangement of words and sentences in a literary work. The author’s style reflects the tone and advances the theme of the work.
Set Purposes for Reading

**Literary Element** Style

Paying attention to the author’s style can help you understand the author’s purpose in writing and attitude toward the subject and audience. Consider the following questions as you read:
Set Purposes for Reading

**Literary Element** **Style**

- What kind of language does the author use? What figures of speech are included?
- What are the sentence patterns? How important are conversations to the essay?
- How does the author feel about this subject?
Set Purposes for Reading

**Literary Element** Style

As you read, ask yourself, how does the style of the essay reveal the author’s attitude toward what she sees during her travels?
Looking for America
Elizabeth Partridge

Set Purposes for Reading

**Literary Element** Style

Click the image to view the animation.
A **fact** is something that can be proved true. An **opinion** is what someone believes to be true. Research is the basis for facts. Feelings or experiences are the basis for opinions. Opinions cannot be proved.
Set Purposes for Reading

Reading Skill Distinguish Fact and Opinion

When you distinguish fact and opinion, you decide what can be proved true and what someone believes.

To distinguish fact and opinion, ask yourself the following questions as you come across convincing information:
Set Purposes for Reading

**Reading Skill** Distinguish Fact and Opinion

- Does the author provide a source or supporting evidence?

- Does the information correspond with facts I already know?

- Is the author presenting his or her feelings about the subject?
Set Purposes for Reading

Reading Skill: Distinguish Fact and Opinion

As you read “Looking for America,” record statements of fact and opinion from the selection. You may find it helpful to use a graphic organizer like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Fact or opinion?</th>
<th>How Do I know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Set Purposes for Reading

**Reading Skill** Distinguish Fact and Opinion

A fact is something that can be proved true.

Click the image to view the animation.
Before You Read

Distinguish Fact and Opinion

Your friend just returned from a trip to Beijing, China. She tells you that Beijing is the capital of China. She also says that Beijing is the best place in the world to vacation. Which of her statements is a fact and which is an opinion? How do you know?

Set Purposes for Reading

Reading Skill Distinguish Fact and Opinion

TRY IT

Distinguish Fact and Opinion Your friend just returned from a trip to Beijing, China. She tells you that Beijing is the capital of China. She also says that Beijing is the best place in the world to vacation. Which of her statements is a fact and which is an opinion? How do you know?
Click the mouse button to return to the Selection Menu
Look at the illustration on page 452. The type of road sign in the picture is used throughout the United States. What do you think this essay will be about?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.
Look at the illustration on page 452. The type of road sign in the picture is used throughout the United States. Why would road signs be similar throughout the country?

**Answer:** So they are easy to identify even when traveling in unfamiliar places.
Style  Read the excerpt highlighted in purple on page 452. Is this an unusual way to start an essay? How does it set the tone of the essay?

Answer: Yes, it is unusual. It begins as though someone just started talking to the reader. The author’s style will be conversational.
What can we infer about the author’s feelings towards her family from these paragraphs?

Answer: She feels self-conscious and ashamed.
Distinguish Fact and Opinion

Read the excerpt highlighted in blue on page 453. Is this a statement of fact or opinion? How do you know?

Answer: This is an opinion. You can’t look it up to prove it to be true. You may note that the author is expressing her feelings, and that there is no evidence to suggest that other people are staring at her.
Literary Element

Style  Read the excerpt highlighted in purple on page 453. What details does the author describe in this paragraph? How do they let readers know how she feels about the trip?

Answer: Details describe activities that convey the narrator’s discomfort, such as waking early for something boring. She is not enjoying the trip.
Cross-country family road trips became very popular in the 1960s because new highways made the entire country accessible for the first time. Airline travel was not yet convenient or affordable for most families. For many, car travel was a very exciting adventure: families like the Partridges would spend their summers touring America, often camping outdoors.
Look at the painting on page 454. What feeling do you think the painter of this scene is trying to convey? Does it relate to how the author views her family’s trip to visit the McNeeleys?
**Answer:** You may say that the painting feels empty and cold, even though it has pretty, warm colors. Its main subject is the street, and there are no people around. This reflects how the narrator feels about the McNeeleys’ house. It is sterile and perfect and makes the narrator feel uncomfortable.
Look at the painting on page 454. Have you ever been in a beautiful place that made you feel uncomfortable? Why do you think it made you feel this way?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.
A casserole is a baked food with many different ingredients inside. Note the image on page 455.
Style Read the excerpt highlighted in purple on page 455. Which senses does the author appeal to when she describes the McNeeleys’ house?

Answer: She appeals to the senses of sight (“shiny clean surfaces”), touch (“huge, fluffy towels,” “smooth cement floors”), and smell (“sweet-smelling soap”).
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Literary Element

Style  Read the excerpt highlighted in purple on page 456. How does the author use the verbs in this sentence to describe her trip to the kitchen?

Answer: The action words slipped, crossed, and bolted help show how anxious and awkward the narrator feels.
Mood Writers use words, settings, and details to create a specific feeling in the reader. This is called mood. The author in this selection is trying to convey an atmosphere of strangeness and alienation. What elements of the story or the author’s language convey these feelings?

Answer: You might mention the details about the heat or descriptions of the family’s discomfort.
Literary Element

Style Read the excerpt highlighted in purple on page 457. How does the figurative language here add to the mood of the essay?

Answer: The simile conveys the narrator’s discomfort with her surroundings and the McNeeleys.
Style Read the excerpt highlighted in purple on page 457. Why is the author’s discussion of heat appropriate given the narrator’s current feelings?

Answer: She feels trapped and uncomfortable in her surroundings.
View the Art

Look at the painting on page 457. How is this painting like the McNeeleys’ kitchen?

**Answer:** It’s neatly arranged and pretty.
Many artists throughout history have painted still life scenes. They often use ordinary objects like fruit and household items. Still life scenes are also commonly used as subjects in art classes because they allow the artist to observe for long periods of time and often consist of simple shapes.
Distinguish Fact and Opinion

Read the excerpt highlighted in blue on page 458. Is this a statement of fact or opinion? How do you know?

**Answer:** Possible response: This is a fact. I can do research to prove that African Americans and whites were separated in the South at the time Partridge had this experience.
Read the excerpt highlighted in tan on page 458. How does this statement reflect the unfairness of the situation?

**Answer:** Even though the narrator tries to obey the law by finding a different fountain, no other fountain is available for African Americans.
Read the excerpt highlighted in tan on page 459. Do you agree with the author’s mother? Are there ways to change things that are unfair?

**Answer:** You may say that unfair situations call for action, not acceptance, and there are ways to change senseless laws.
Literary History

Personal narratives, often referred to as memoirs, are very popular among adults and young adults alike. After reading “Looking for America,” why do you think that personal narratives might be popular or meaningful to readers today?

Answer: Answers will vary.
Click the mouse button to return to the Selection Menu
1. How does Annie help the author at lunch? [Recall]

**Answer:** Annie puts a spoonful of casserole on the narrator’s plate because the narrator is afraid of serving herself.
2. Explain why the author is uncomfortable at the McNeeleys’ house. [Summarize]

Answer: She is uncomfortable because the house seems too nice for her and her family. She thinks they aren’t good enough to be staying there. She is also confused by Annie’s role in the household.
3. What question does the author want to ask Annie? Why doesn’t she ask this question? [Infer]

**Answer:** She wants to ask Annie what she does when she gets thirsty at the park. It seems like too big and complicated a question to ask.
Respond and Think Critically

4. **Literary Element** Style  How would you describe the author’s style in “Looking for America”? Choose one or two words to describe it, and explain your choice. [Analyze]
TIP: Analyzing

In question 4, to analyze the author’s style, think about the language she uses.
Respond and Think Critically

• What kind of word choices and sentence structure does she use to describe her experience?

• What examples of figurative language can you find?
Respond and Think Critically

- What tone do the words, sentences, and figures of speech create? Is the essay funny? Playful? Dramatic?
Looking for America

Elizabeth Partridge

Respond and Think Critically

**Answer:** You may say the style is colorful, chatty, personal, funny, dramatic, or complicated. You should support their opinion with examples from the text.
Respond and Think Critically

5. **Reading Skill** Distinguish Fact and Opinion

Review the graphic organizer you completed as you read. How does the author use both facts and opinions to tell about segregation? **[Classify]**
Respond and Think Critically

Answer: Possible response: The author uses an effective mix of facts and opinions. The opinions bring emotion to the issue of segregation, and the facts prove what life was like in the South during this time.
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Respond and Think Critically

6. **BIG Question** At the end of the essay, why does the author feel helpless? What has she learned about fairness? [Conclude]

**Answer:** She feels helpless because she has seen an unfair situation that doesn’t make sense. She is confused and does not know what to do. She has learned that there are unfair situations she didn’t know about and has no power to change.
Match each boldface vocabulary word with a word from the two right columns that has the same or a similar meaning. Two of the words in the right columns will not have matches.
1. architect
2. beckoned
3. buffet
4. radiating
5. discomfort

a. signaled
b. beat
c. bridge
d. pain
e. dying
f. spreading
g. designer
Write a Letter  What is the author’s main point in “Looking for America”? Which characters help support the point? Write an informative letter to one of the characters.
In the letter, explain how the character’s words or actions help support the author’s main point. Include supporting details from the essay. Be sure your letter includes a date, a greeting, a closing, and a signature.
Click the mouse button to return to the Selection Menu
Think of a time when you took a drive or a road trip. How were the places you visited different from your community? How were the people different? What lasting impression did the trip have on you?
Each of the following sentences contains one or more errors. Find the errors and correct the sentences.

1. Who’s keyboard has the lose keys?

   Whose keyboard has the loose keys?

2. I can learn you an easy way to fix them.

   I can teach you an easy way to fix them.

3. Just leave me set in your chair for a minute, and than I’ll show you.

   Just let me sit in your chair for a minute, and then I’ll show you.
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