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**Acts of Kindness on New York’s Subway**

“Wherever there is a human in need, there is an opportunity for kindness and to make a difference” (Kevin Health). This quote relates to “New York Subway” by Hilda Morley because there was an old man who was in need of help to be able to get to the train. Hilda Morley describes the acts of kindness done for the old man, because he was someone who was in need. The opportunity to help the old man was an act of kindness and may or may not have made a difference. On the subway there are many kinds of people of different ages, colors, and sexes, that ride the train everyday but no matter whom they are, acts of kindness are being performed. Acts performed such as giving up your seat for an elderly person or holding the train door for a stranger. In “New York Subway”, by Hilda Morley, she describes the theme of different people helping one another and how we learn to perform acts of kindness from each other.

Hilda Morley describes a slow Saturday evening on the train where she sees many kinds of people riding the train. She describes a group of high school boys from Queens joking around on the train, and a group of office girls smiling and talking. She lastly describes an act of kindness performed by both a stranger and herself, “& the Puerto Rican holding the door for more than 3 minutes for the feeble, crippled, hunched little man who could not raise his head, whose hand I held, to help him into the subway-car”(Morley 364). After she walks the old man into the car, someone gets up and kindly gives up their seat so the old man can sit down. Hilda Morley describes the act of kindness performed on the train for the old man by complete strangers.

After Hilda walked the old man into the cart she says “someone, seeing us, gives up his seat, learning from us what we had learned from each other” (Morley 364). Hilda Morley describes how whether we may know it or not, we learn how to perform acts of kindness from each other. If we see someone give up their seat for an elderly, we learn from that and now when we see an elderly person step on the train, we ask if they would like to sit down and give them our seat. It doesn’t only happen for elderly people, but in general for other people as well.

Hilda stated how we learn to perform acts of kindness from one another and she described the different kinds of people on the train. When she described the different kinds of people on the train, she described them as “the high-school boys from Queens, boasting, joking together proudly in their expectations & power, young frolicsome bulls & the three office-girls each strangely beautiful, the Indian with dark skin & the girl with her haircut very short and fringed, like Joan at the stake, the corners of her mouth laughing & the black girl delicate as a doe, dark-brown in pale-brown clothes & the tall woman in a long caftan, the other day, serene & serious”(Morley 364). She tries to connect the idea of those people learning from the act of kindness that was performed for the old man. She expresses the idea of learning from one another by describing those groups because those groups may be watching her as she holds the old man’s hand and as someone gives up their seat for him. Hilda Morley describes how we may learn from one another by just watching someone else perform an act of kindness.

The subway is a great setting and place where you can see acts of kindness being performed and we may not even notice it. Hilda Morley expresses this through a line in her poem “The beauty of people in the subway that evening, Saturday, holding the door for whoever was slower or left behind” (Morley 364). Hilda describes how people in the subway hold the door for each other so they wouldn’t miss the train. That is a perfect example of how the subway is great setting where acts of kindness are performed. We don’t want someone to miss the train because they might have somewhere important to go and we naturally show kindness to one another because it is by our nature. Hilda Morley relates the subway as a great setting for acts of kindness to her title.

In the poem “New York Subway” by Hilda Morley, she describes the theme of different people helping one another and how we learn to perform acts of kindness from each other. Hilda describes the theme by showing how she was able to help an old man into the subway train and how strangers also helped by holding the door and giving up a seat for him. When Hilda also described the different people on the train, she described how they may have learned as they may have watched the acts of kindness be performed, thus learning from each other. As people, we perform acts of kindness because it is in our nature, but Hilda Morley emphasizes the acts of kindness because one person learns to act kind from another.