

THE REUNION

Teacher: Read this little tale to your class to remind them things change, but we sometimes are prone to speak as they haven't changed.

Mr. and Mrs. Knockwurst return to their alma mater for their 25th college reunion. As they walk toward the school over the large lawn in front of it, Mrs. Knockwurst exclaims, "Oh, Harry. Look. Here is the same tree under which you proposed to me."

They go on a little further and Mrs. Knockwurst looks around and says, "Everything is the same. It is just the way I remember it!"

Let me read that again, because we are going to examine Mrs. Knockwurst's statements.

Ask for opinions about the validity of Mrs. Knockwurst's three statements. Consider the following points.

First, let's look at the tree. The tree has aged 25 years. It may have grown in girth; it may have shed a few branches, and changed its shape. It can no longer be considered the SAME tree, although many of its attributes, such as location, variety, etc. remain relatively constant.

By the same token, we know that everything about the campus is not the same as it was 25 years ago. Campus¹⁹⁸⁰ is not Campus²⁰⁰⁵. Remember to index when making comparisons.

The last statement, "It is just the way I remember it," can actually fall into the category of factual, since Mrs. Knockwurst is describing a personal memory at that moment of time. We may conclude that either Mrs. Knockwurst exhibits a bad memory, needs glasses, or perhaps socialized excessively prior to taking the campus tour.