Date: Tuesday, June 14, during our regular class time.

“What is good is given back”
--Lewis Hyde, from The Gift (Vintage Books, 1983)

What is this gift? The gift you will give to the rest of us is NOT something you buy. It is something you make, write, think of, or invent, and it has to do with writing and the things we’ve learned and talked about in this class. The purpose of this gift is to confirm, for yourself and for the rest of us in the class, that yes, we have all been here together all quarter, we have paid attention to writing, and as a result, we are changed (at least a little) from who we were at the beginning. The bestowal of the gift is the final touch that sends us, full of rich spirit, out again into the world.

Here are a few ideas about what your gift could be, but please don’t limit yourself to these options. Think of something you would like to offer that fits with your experience of the class. What would you like to share or create about writing and about our work together?

• A proverb you make up about writing.
• A handy tip about writing, perhaps worded in a memorable way.
• A poem you’ve written that has to do with something in the class, or with something you’ve thought about that you might not have thought about had you not been in this class.
• A sentence or other bit of writing that you found somewhere and liked, which you might now be able to better appreciate.
• A song or rap or…whatever your creative outlet is—about something in this class.
• A story about finding some sort of English error out in the world, in a sign or a newspaper, that you never would have found if it hadn’t been for this class.
• Particular wishes for the rest of us and our future writing lives.

If you think of something and you’re not sure if it would count as a gift, ask me.

How will the presentation work? Each one of us, one at a time, will stand up and offer our gift.

How is the gift graded? The gift and gift presentation is worth 10 points total. It is an all-or-nothing grade: You earn all the points if you offer your gift and are present for everyone else’s offering. You earn none of the points if you miss some of the offerings or do not offer a gift yourself. Note that that means it’s very important to be on time on Gift Day!