

## Underground Events

The subway is an **assault** on your senses. You walk down the steep, **smelly** staircase onto the subway **platform**. On the far right wall, a broken clock shows that the time is four-thirty. You wonder how long it has been broken. A mother and her crying child are standing to your left. She is trying to clean dried chocolate **syrup** off the child's messy face. **Farther** to the left, two old men are **arguing** about the most recent tax increase. You hear a little noise and see some paper trash roll by like a soccer ball. The most interesting thing you see while you are waiting for your subway train is a poster. It reads, "Come to Jamaica." Deep blue skies, a lone palm tree, and **sapphire** waters call you to this exotic place, which is so far from where you actually are.



**an assault:** an attack  
**smelly:** smelling bad or unpleasant  
**a platform:** a raised area  
**a syrup:** a thick liquid

**farther:** comparative form of the word *far*  
**argue:** to fight verbally  
**sapphire:** dark blue color like the color of a sapphire stone

1. From the information in this paragraph, how do you think the writer feels about the subway?

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2. Can you think of other places where people wait for something?

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3. Which of the five senses does the writer use to describe this place? Give examples from the paragraph to support your answers.

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4. What verb tense is used in this paragraph? Why do you think the writer uses that tense?

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