

Keystone Focus Topic: Author's Point of View

1. Martial arts fantasy films from Hong Kong traditionally squeeze poor acting, slapstick humor, and silly story lines between elaborate fight scenes in which characters can literally fly. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* has no shortage of breathtaking battles, but it also has the dramatic soul of a Greek tragedy and the sweep of an epic romance. This is the work of director Ang Lee, who fell in love with movies while watching martial arts fantasy films as a youngster and made *Crouching Tiger* as a tribute to the form.

What can readers tell about the author's attitude in this passage?

- A. The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* is a good movie.
- B. The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* was a boring movie.
- C. The author thinks *Crouching Tiger* has no battle scenes.
- D. The author thinks the acting in *Crouching Tiger* is poor.

2. A short walk on a trail, a quick swim in a lake, even a brief moment of repose looking at a scenic vista can reinvigorate you and recharge your "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness." Take advantage of public recreation sites, and spend time maintaining your physical as well as psychological health. Get active—it can help reduce feelings of depression and anxiety, and help maintain your appropriate body weight. Parks, bikeways, trails . . . they are "re-creation" sites for mind, body, and spirit.

Which word describes the author's attitude toward recreational parks?

- A. detrimental
- B. harmful
- C. affirmative
- D. unfavorable

Alaska's vast Denali National Park is divided into designated tracts of wilderness, some as big as whole counties. Snowfields and glaciers on the northern face of the Alaska Range mountains feed wide-braided rivers that cut valleys through tundra. The landscape is treeless and trail-less as far as you can see, and far beyond. There are no markers or signposts to designate where one tract ends and another begins. They appear only on maps for the purpose of allotting back-country hiking permits.

A portion of one of the tracts is even more special. It's off-limits. It's called Sable Pass, 60 or so square miles of lumpy tundra protected against human intrusion, except for scientists who have carved themselves an exemption. The purpose is to give wildlife one true sanctuary from people. Sable Pass is in my thoughts because the last of the nation's public lands are in political play these days, and too often we limit the discussion to how these lands should be "used." Backpackers versus Jeeps. Oil drilling versus caribou. Tree cutters versus tree huggers. Jobs versus recreation.

I would feel better about the future if our political debate about public lands accounted for the intangible, but vital, need for wilderness. Not just for nature's sake but for the sake of our souls. Can elk live on pastures with cows? Yes. Can caribou co-exist with oil rigs? They do. Grizzly bears can live in garbage dumps too.

But wilderness, true wilderness, does not exist with cow pastures and oil rigs and garbage dumps. Wilderness is not defined by how it can be used. Like Sable Pass, wilderness is about not using it at all. Except to preserve our diminishing sense of wonder.

3. What can you tell about the author's attitude toward the wilderness?
 - A. The author is in favor of preserving the wilderness as much as possible.
 - B. The author thinks man and animal can easily coexist in the wilderness.
 - C. The author feels that the government is overprotective of the wilderness.
 - D. The author believes people can't carefully develop any areas of wilderness.
4. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?
 - A. to persuade readers that wilderness is best left totally alone
 - B. to persuade political leaders to use caution when developing wilderness land
 - C. to convince readers to go hiking in the Denali National Park
 - D. to inform readers of the huge environmental crisis that looms ahead
5. Based on the tone of this passage, the author is most likely a member of which group?
 - A. a logging company
 - B. a garbage collection agency
 - C. an organization for farmers
 - D. a hiking and camping club

June 21 is officially the First Day of Summer, which is entirely bogus and artificial. By June 21, we already have our first sunburn, our first dire warning about sunscreen, and our first electric bill for cooling instead of heating.

By then, the city swimming pools are already open. The amusement park has been serving funnel cakes for more than a month.

On the first official day of summer, the Northern Hemisphere receives its maximum amount of solar radiation for the entire year. That can't be cause for celebration, can it? That sounds more like Suspicious Mole Day.

The way you feel when you get up for work and it's already light and it's still light when you come home at night—now that's worth celebrating.

This comes our way before June 21. And so do ice cream trucks, by the way.

6. The author of this passage would probably agree that
 - A. people should celebrate the first "official" day of winter.
 - B. summer is the third best season after spring and winter.
 - C. too many people take the joys of summer for granted.
 - D. the first "official" day of summer should not be celebrated.

7. Which of these best expresses the author's attitude toward summer?

- A. The author is worried about getting sunburned.
- B. The author is concerned that her electric bills are too high.
- C. The author enjoys the summer's longer periods of daylight.
- D. The author wishes summer would start sooner.

Merchants of Cool, a PBS Frontline documentary, shows how companies exploit the youth culture. The documentary talks about how advertisers market products to teenagers by studying their hopes and desires. They then sell these hopes and desires back to teens in a diabolical feedback loop.

The film describes how marketers study teens to figure out what's "cool." Information on what is "cool" is used to create products that reflect exactly what teens want. For example, Sprite wanted to increase its market share in the soft-drinks category; therefore, it launched teen-targeted ad campaigns. The company featured hip hop artists, baggy jeans, and sneakers in its ads. Teens were able to connect with this culture, and this boosted Sprite sales.

This documentary should be shown at every junior and senior school. By watching this film, teenagers will realize how advertisers are manipulating them.

8. The author of this selection feels

- A. advertisers should better understand teenagers.
- B. that companies take unfair advantage of teens.
- C. companies run advertisements to help kids learn.
- D. that documentary viewing should be mandatory.

9. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- A. to tell the story of clever advertising companies
- B. to get more teenagers to watch *Merchants of Cool*
- C. to emphasize the importance of documentaries
- D. to criticize all TV advertisers for exploiting teenagers

10. Which of the following sentences best reveals the author's attitude toward *Merchants of Cool*?

- A. "This documentary should be shown at every junior and senior school."
- B. "The company featured hip hop artists, baggy jeans, and sneakers in its ads."
- C. "The film describes how marketers study teens to figure out what's 'cool.' "
- D. "Teens were able to connect with this culture, and this boosted Sprite sales."