



Test Prep

TEAS

**Test of Essential Academic Skills: Reading
Comprehension, Sentence Correction, Math Problem
Solving, Sentence Completion**

QUESTION & ANSWERS

Sections

1. Reading Practice
2. Science
3. Mathematics
4. English and Language Usage

Exam A

QUESTION 1

Which of the following best describes the purpose of this passage?

Chang-Rae Lee's debut and award-winning novel *Native Speaker* is about Henry Park, a Korean-American individual who struggles to find his place as an immigrant in a suburb of New York City. This novel addresses the notion that as the individuals who know us best, our family, peers, and lovers are the individuals who direct our lives and end up defining us.

Henry Park is confronted with this reality in the very beginning of the novel, which begins: "The day my wife left she gave me a list of who I was." Upon separating from his wife, Park struggles with racial and ethnic identity issues due to his loneliness. Through Park's work as an undercover operative for a private intelligence agency, the author presents the theme of espionage as metaphor for the internal divide that Park experiences as an immigrant. This dual reality creates two worlds for Park and increases his sense of uncertainty with regard to his place in society. While he constantly feels like an outsider looking in, he also feels like he belongs to neither world.

Chang-Rae Lee is also a first-generation Korean American immigrant. He immigrated to America at the early age of three. Themes of identity, race, and cultural alienation pervade his works. His interests in these themes no doubt stem from his first-hand experience as a kid growing up in a Korean household while going to an American school.

Lee is also author of *A Gesture Life* and *Aloft*. The protagonists are similar in that they deal with labels placed on them based on race, color, and language. Consequently, all of these characters struggle to belong in America.

Lee's novels address differences within a nation's mix of race, religion, and history, and the necessity of assimilation between cultures. In his works and through his characters, Lee shows us both the difficulties and the subtleties of the immigrant experience in America. He urges us to consider the role of borders and to consider why the idea of opening up one's borders is so frightening. In an ever-changing world in which cultures are becoming more intermingled, the meaning of identity must be constantly redefined, especially when the security of belonging to a place is becoming increasingly elusive. As our world grows smaller with increasing technological advances, these themes in Lee's novels become even more pertinent.

- A. to criticize
- B. to entertain
- C. to inform
- D. to analyze

Correct Answer: D

Section: Reading Practice

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation:

The passage was written to analyze the works by Chang-Rae Lee and the themes presented in his most famous novels.

QUESTION 2

Why does the author of the passage quote the first line of the novel *Native Speaker*?

Chang-Rae Lee's debut and award-winning novel *Native Speaker* is about Henry Park, a Korean-American individual who struggles to find his place as an immigrant in a suburb of New York City. This novel addresses the notion that as the individuals who know us best, our family, peers, and lovers are the individuals who direct our lives and end up defining us.

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- A. It is the main idea of the novel.
- B. To illustrate one of the themes in the novel.
- C. To show how the book is semi-autobiographical.
- D. To create interest in the novel.

Correct Answer: B

Section: Reading Practice

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation:

The author of this passage uses the first line of the novel to provide an example of one of the themes of the novel.

QUESTION 3

According to the passage, which of the following is not a main theme of Lee's novels?

Chang-Rae Lee's debut and award-winning novel *Native Speaker* is about Henry Park, a Korean-American individual who struggles to find his place as an immigrant in a suburb of New York City. This novel addresses the notion that as the individuals who know us best, our family, peers, and lovers are the individuals who direct our lives and end up defining us.

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