**Recognizing Elements of Voice**

**Directions:** As you read the following paragraphs, notice how each writer creates a different tone and how that tone is supported by the Elements of Voice. Select the word from the word bank best describing the tone of the paragraph. Justify your answer using evidence from the text, stating which elements of voice the author uses to create the tone.

**WORD BANK**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Angry | Humorous | Ironic | Nostalgic | Resigned |

1. When I was six years old, I thought I knew a lot. How to jump rope, how to skip a rock across a pond, and how to color and stay between the lines—these were all things I took great pride in. Nothing was difficult, and my days were carefree. That is, until the summer when everything became complicated and I suddenly realized I didn’t know that much. -- Heather C. Blue, student
2. Cans. Beer cans. Glinting on the verges of a million miles of roadways, lying in scrub, grass, dirt, leaves, sand, mud, but never hidden. Piels, Rheingold, Ballantine, Schaefer, Schlitz, shining in the sun or picked by moon or the beams of headlight at night; washed by rain or flattened by wheels, but never dulled, never buried, never destroyed. Here is the mark of savages, the testament of wasters, the stain of posterity. -- Marya Mannes
3. In perpetrating a revolution, there are two requirements: someone or something to revolt against and someone to actually show up and do the revolting. Dress is usually casual and both parties may be flexible about time and place but if either faction fails to attend the whole enterprise is likely to come off badly. In the Chinese Revolution of 1650 neither party showed up and the deposit on the hall was forfeited. -- Woody Allen
4. I make my living humping cargo for Seaboard World Airlines, one of the big international airlines at Kennedy Airport. They handle strictly all cargo. I was once told that one of the Rockefellers is the major stockholder for the airlines, but I don’t really think about that too much. I don’t get paid to think. The big thing is to beat that race with the time clock every morning of your life so the airline will be happy. The worst thing a man could ever do is to make suggestions about building a better airline. They pay people $40,000 a year to come up with better ideas. It doesn’t matter that these ideas never work; it’s just that they get nervous when a guy from South Brooklyn or Ozone Park acts like he has a brain. -- Patrick Fenton
5. Once upon a time there was a small, beautiful, green and graceful country called Vietnam. It needed to be saved. (In later years, no one could remember exactly what it needed to be saved from, that that is another story.) For many years Vietnam was in the process of being saved by France, but the French eventually tired of their labors and left. Then America took on the job. America was well equipped for country-saving. It was the richest and most powerful nation on earth. It had, for example, nuclear explosives on hand and ready to use equal to six tons of TNT for every man, woman, and child in the world. It had huge and very efficient factories, brilliant and dedicated scientists, and most (but not everybody) would agree, it had good intentions. Sadly, America had one fatal flaw—its inhabitants were in love with technology and thought it could do no wrong. A Visitor to America during the time of this story would probably have guessed its outcome after seeing how its inhabitants were treating their own country. The air was mostly foul, the water putrid, and most of the land was either covered with concrete or garbage. But Americans were never much on introspection, and they didn’t foresee the result of their loving embrace on the small country. They set out to save Vietnam with the same enthusiasm and determination their forefathers had displayed in conquering the frontier. -- The Sierra Club 12