



READING COMPREHENSION

Choose the best response, based on your reading of the Essay.

- 1 The designer of the Bird Kettle is _____.
 - (a) Michael Graves
 - (b) Alessi Grabes
 - (c) Achille Castiglioni
 - (d) Richard Sapper

- 2 When the water in the Bird Kettle boils, the bird _____.
 - (a) flaps its wings
 - (b) spins madly
 - (c) whistles brightly
 - (d) flies away

- 3 How many Bird Kettles have been sold?
 - (a) About two million.
 - (b) About two hundred million.
 - (c) Achille Castiglioni
 - (d) By Richard Sapper.

- 4 Why did Graves put giant dwarfs on the Disney building in L.A.?
 - (a) To annoy his clients, wickedly.
 - (b) To hold up the roof, structurally.
 - (c) To use leftover building materials, economically.
 - (d) To imitate classical architecture, humorously.

- 5 Choose “T” for True or “F” for False.
Wittiness and humor did not exist in the world before postmodern designers invented them. (T) (F)



Complete the Summary by filling in the blanks.

(1) 1983, the Italian design firm of Alessi decided that they needed a new kettle. Their main target was the American market. They asked the American architect and designer, Michael Graves, (2) design something new. He came up (3) the Bird Kettle, a type of whistling kettle.

Does putting a bird on the tip of a kettle’s spout seem funny? Well, it is! Postmodern designers and architects like Graves clearly think that (4) modern design is (5) serious, even lifeless. They often want their buildings and objects to (6) a story of some kind. And they are likely to employ humor, even irony, to make their designs—their “stories”—more interesting. They “quote” other designers or styles—sometimes humorously, (7) seriously.

(8) example of Graves’s humor is a knife he designed. Its blade and cutting edge resemble a toothy shark.

a. with b. sometimes c. Another d. too e. to f. go g. tell h. Around i. a lot of