

# Lesson 11

## Author's Point of View



### Learning Target



Understanding the difference between an author's point of view and your own will help you understand different ways of looking at a topic.

► **Read** **Point of view** is the way we think or feel about something. For example, you might like a certain kind of music, but a friend of yours may think it's terrible. You both have different points of view about that kind of music.

Authors often give their points of view about **topics**. They do this by using opinion words such as *best*, *worst*, *beautiful*, *like*, *dislike*, *feel*, and *believe*. As you read, try to figure out the author's point of view by noticing these types of word clues.

**Look at the cartoon below. How does the woman feel about the art?**



**Look at the cartoon again. Notice the words the woman uses as she writes about the art. What does that tell you about her point of view?**

► **Think** Look back at the cartoon. Complete the chart by telling the woman's point of view about the art.

Author	Point of View	Details
Woman		

► **Talk** What do you think of the art in the cartoon? Give reasons for your point of view. Does your partner share your point of view?

**Academic Talk**

Use this phrase and word to talk about the text.

- point of view
- topics

# Make Way for the Mallard Family

by Jesse Green

- 1 *Make Way for Ducklings* is a children's book by Robert McCloskey. In it, a mother and her eight ducklings walk to a park in Boston, Massachusetts. Today, a delightful bronze sculpture of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings stands in Boston's Public Garden. The statue is almost as popular as the book! It seems to bring the duck family to life.
- 2 Nancy Schön made this charming creation in 1987. It is a series of nine adorable statues. Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings proudly parade in a row. Children cuddle these lifelike statues all the time. All this petting means they never need to be polished.
- 3 A thief stole one of the ducklings in 2009. The cowardly criminal snapped the bird off at its webbed feet. This senseless attack angered many people. Boston's Mayor Menino said, "This act is not a prank, it is a crime."
- 4 Fortunately, the missing statue was found four blocks away. It was leaning against a tree. The people who found the stolen duckling returned it right away. Soon, the duckling was back in the parade where he belonged.
- 5 Nancy Schön loves to come to the park and watch children enjoy her sculpture. She feels lucky to have made something that "has given so much pleasure to so many."



## Close Reader Habits

As you read, **circle** words that show how the author feels about the statue.

**Explore**

How can you figure out the author's point of view and compare it to your own?



To figure out the author's point of view, look at the words used to describe the topic.

**Think**

- 1 What words help you decide how the author feels about the sculpture? Add two more examples to the first column of the chart. Then write what you think the author's point of view is about the sculpture.

Words Describing the Sculpture	Author's Point of View on the Sculpture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "delightful bronze sculpture"</li> </ul>	

**Talk**

- 2 Look again at the picture of the sculpture. What do you think of it? Explain your point of view.


**Write**

- 3 **Short Response** Is your point of view different from or the same as the author's? Tell how it is the same or different. Use the space provided on page 180 to write your answer.

**HINT** Think of opinion words that describe something you liked or something you disliked. Use them in your response.





# SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

by Kim Wu

- 1 The town of Butler held its first Winter Fest this week. The highlight of the outdoor event was the snow sculpture contest. Teams of snow carvers worked tirelessly to create amazing works of art. The crowds were delighted!
- 2 Snow sculpture is a very difficult kind of sculpture to make. Teams of snow carvers made fantastic sculptures from huge blocks of snow. Each team could use only common hand tools. Shovels and cheese graters were very popular. For a whole day, they cut away packed snow from the heavy blocks. By late afternoon, these snow artists had created amazing sculptures. Some were over nine feet tall!
- 3 My favorite snow sculpture won second prize. This sculpture of a giant dragon was incredible. It had detailed scales and a pair of giant wings. It also had a long tail. This fierce dragon even breathed fire made of snow!
- 4 The snow sculpture that won third prize was a good choice by the judges. It was a copy of the White House in Washington, D.C.
- 5 I was disappointed by the snow sculpture that captured first prize. It was a covered wagon. The team of carvers made the wagon wheels too small! They made other mistakes, too.
- 6 I really do believe that my favorite sculpture should have won the grand prize. But Butler's first Winter Fest was still a great success. I can't wait for the next one!

## Close Reader Habits

What is the author's point of view about the dragon sculpture? **Circle** words and details in paragraph 3 that show how the author felt about the sculpture.



Authors sometimes use words that show strong feelings in order to convey their point of view.

## Think

- 1** This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

### Part A

Which choice **best** describes the author's point of view about snow sculpture?

- A** Snow sculpture is interesting, but it's just for kids.
- B** Snow sculpture is an impressive type of art.
- C** Snow sculpture requires very little effort.
- D** Snow sculptures are not as good as regular sculptures.

### Part B

Which sentence from the review **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A** "The highlight of the outdoor event was the snow sculpture contest."
- B** "Snow sculpture is a very difficult kind of sculpture to make."
- C** "This sculpture of a giant dragon was incredible."
- D** "The snow sculpture that won third prize was a good choice by the judges."

## Talk

- 2** Based on the review, do you think the author, Kim Wu, believes that Butler should have another Winter Fest? What details helped you know what Kim Wu's point of view would be?

## Write

- 3 Short Response** In the second paragraph, the author says, "Snow sculpture is a very difficult kind of sculpture to make." Explain whether or not you agree. Compare your point of view with Kim Wu's. Use the space provided on page 181 to write your answer.

**HINT** Reread the details that tell about how a snow sculpture is made. Think about what it takes to complete those steps.



**Write** Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 177.

## Make Way for the Mallard Family

- 3 Short Response** Is your point of view different from or the same as the author's? Tell how it is the same or different.

**HINT** Think of opinion words that describe something you liked or something you disliked. Use them in your response.

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Don't forget to check your writing.



**Write** Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 179.

# SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

- 3 Short Response** In the second paragraph, the author says, "Snow sculpture is a very difficult kind of sculpture to make." Explain whether or not you agree. Compare your point of view with Kim Wu's.

**HINT** Reread the details that tell about how a snow sculpture is made. Think about what it takes to complete those steps.

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## Check Your Writing

- ☐ Did you read the prompt carefully?
- ☐ Did you put the prompt in your own words?
- ☐ Did you use the best evidence from the text to support your ideas?
- ☐ Are your ideas clearly organized?
- ☐ Did you write in clear and complete sentences?
- ☐ Did you check your spelling and punctuation?





**WORDS TO KNOW**

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **commissioned**
- **scaffolds**
- **dismantle**
- **pedestal**



Frederic Auguste Bartholdi visited the United States and chose the place where the Statue of Liberty would stand.

# Our Most Famous Immigrant

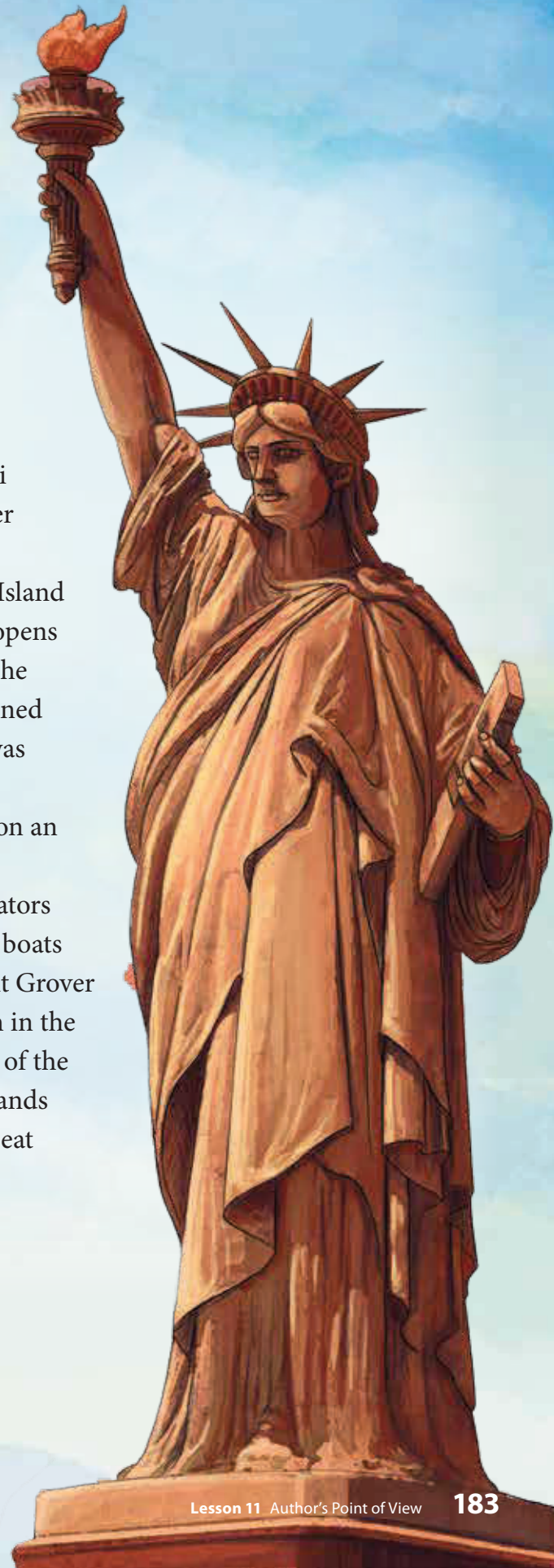
by Nancy Whitelaw, *Cobblestone*

- 1 America's most famous immigrant arrived here in 1885. She was packed in 214 boxes. She was about 10 years old then. America had been waiting nine years for her. She was the Statue of Liberty. Her story begins long ago in France.
- 2 It is April 1876. Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor, has a problem. He has been commissioned to complete a statue as a gift from France to America for America's 100th birthday.
- 3 "July fourth, July fourth," he mutters over and over. "It can't be done."
- 4 Plaster dust swirls through the air around the partly finished statue. Gobs of wet plaster fall in heaps on the floor below it. Workmen climb up and down the scaffolds, hauling pails of materials and tools.
- 5 The noise is deafening. Men are shouting directions. Saws are rasping at ragged edges. Mallets are clanging copper sheets into molds. Hammers are nailing wood strips together.
- 6 An idea comes to Bartholdi. "I'll finish the arm and torch. I'll send them in time for the 4th of July so the Americans can at least imagine the whole statue." This is no small present. The hand alone is 16 feet high.
- 7 When the arm and torch finally are completed, Bartholdi has them shipped to the Philadelphia World's Fair. The Americans are amazed and delighted. The sculptor feels some relief that his art is appreciated. But he still has a great deal of work to do to finish building the world's largest statue.

In 1878, the head of the Statue of Liberty was displayed in Paris, France. A small copy of the complete statue was shown with it.



- 8 Finally, in 1884, she stands tall and proud. She looks over the rooftops of Paris, France. She stays there until January 1885, while the Americans build a pedestal for her. Then, Bartholdi orders his crew to dismantle the statue and pack her into boxes.
- 9 Two hundred fourteen boxes arrive at Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor on June 17, 1885. A reporter opens some of the boxes. "I found one case that had just the eyebrows and forehead," he writes. "Another contained the left ear and some pieces of hair. One box that was eight feet long held one of her curls." Workmen in America assemble the statue—all 216 feet of her—on an 89-foot-tall pedestal.
- 10 On October 28, 1886, crowds of cheering spectators gather at the shore to watch the unveiling. The 300 boats in the harbor clear a path to the statue for President Grover Cleveland and his party. Bartholdi, positioned high in the torch of the statue, pulls the cord to unveil the face of the statue called *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Thousands cheer, wave banners, blow whistles, sound sirens, beat drums, and ring bells.





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## Part A

With which statement would the author of this article **most likely** agree?

- A** Building the Statue of Liberty was an amazing accomplishment.
- B** The sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was not a patient man.
- C** Americans did not appreciate the statue as much as they should have.
- D** The Statue of Liberty cost too much money to make.

## Part B

Write **two** sentences that support the answer you chose in Part A.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

**2** Which of the following **best** describes the author's point of view about the Statue of Liberty?

- A** Late delivery of the statue was the result of poor planning.
- B** More statues like the Statue of Liberty should be built in this country.
- C** The story of how the statue was built is both interesting and amazing.
- D** The Statue of Liberty is the greatest statue in the world.

**3** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

**Part A**

According to the author, how did most Americans feel about the statue while they waited for it to be completed?

- A** They weren't very interested in seeing it.
- B** They were excited and eager for it to arrive.
- C** They were worried that it wouldn't fit in the harbor.
- D** They didn't think the statue was worth the long wait.

**Part B**

Which key event mentioned in the article caused Americans to feel the way they did about the gift they'd be receiving?

- A** the nine-year delay as the statue was built
- B** the display of the arm and torch at the World's Fair
- C** the arrival of 214 boxes at Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor
- D** the completion of the statue in France



- 4** Read these sentences from paragraph 7.

**The Americans are amazed and delighted. The sculptor feels some relief that his art is appreciated.**

What does the word *appreciated* mean in this context?

- A** felt, touched
- B** found, discovered
- C** valued, enjoyed
- D** covered, hid

- 5** Read these sentences from paragraph 10.

**Bartholdi, positioned high in the torch of the statue, pulls the cord to unveil the face of the statue called *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Thousands cheer, wave banners, blow whistles, sound sirens, beat drums, and ring bells.**

Which word **best** describes the author's point of view on the 1886 unveiling of the Statue of Liberty?

- A** disappointed
- B** confused
- C** upset
- D** excited



## Write

- 6 Short Response** The author describes the Statue of Liberty as America's most famous immigrant. Do you agree with her point of view? Explain your point of view and support it with details from the article.

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## Learning Target

**You have now compared several authors' points of view to your own. Explain how doing this can help you think about your own point of view more carefully.**

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