

Prereading Questions for Selection in Chapter 13

“Bad Dog,” Rachel Maizes

- To what senses do you expect the writer to appeal in a description about a “bad dog”?
- What behaviors make a dog “bad”?
- How might Maizes’s description compare to paragraphs written for Exercise 13.3?

“You Are Your Bike,” Mary Roach

- If you had one, what did your first bicycle look like, and how did you feel about it?
- If you did not have a bicycle, did you have another toy that was important to you as a child?

“Heatstroke with a Side of Burn Cream,” Ted Sawchuck

- Think of your most hectic experience in preparing a meal for your family or for a party: What dominant impression would you want to convey?
- What descriptive details would you use?

“Eating Chili Peppers,” Jeremy MacClancy

- If you have eaten chili peppers, what was the experience like?
- Besides taste, what other senses could be used to describe eating chili peppers?

“Speaking Quiché in the Heart of Dixie,” Gabriel Thompson

- Quiché is one of more than fifty languages spoken in Guatemala. Why might this language be spoken in the “Heart of Dixie”?
- What is Dixie, and where might be its heart?