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| Read Like a Reader | Text: Julie Ostuka’s “When the Emperor was Divine” | Read Like A Writer |
| What is the author’s purpose?What questions are at issue in the author’s purpose?What emotions or images are conveyed? | His father was a small handsome man with delicate hands and a raised white scar on his index finger that the boy, as young child, had loved to kiss. “Does it hurt?” he’d once asked him. “Not anymore,” his father had replied. He was extremely polite. Whenever he walked into a room he closed the door behind him softly. He was always on time. He wore beautiful suits and did not yell at waiters. He loved pistachio nuts. He believed that fruit juice was the ideal drink. He liked to doodle. He was especially fond of drawing a box and then making it into three dimensions. *I guess you could say that’s my forte*. Whenever the boy knocked on his door his father would look up and smile and put down whatever it was he was doing. “Don’t be shy,” he’d say. He read the *Examiner* every morning before work and he knew the answers to everything. How small a germ was and when did fish sleep and were did Kitty McKenzie go after they took her out of her iron lung? He knew when to leave the boy’s mother alone and how to best ask her for ice cream. *Don’t ask her too often and when you do, don’t let her know how much you really want it. Don’t beg. Don’t whine*. He knew which restaurants would serve them lunch and which would not. He knew which barbers would cut their kind of hair. The best ones, of course. The thing that he loved most about America, he once confided to the boy, was the glazed jelly donut. *Can’t be beat.* | How does the author communicate his purpose?How does the author focus his questions at issue?What literary elements does the author use to create this? |