

Read the following story. Then respond to the three prompts.

**Fable: The Zax**

Dr. Seuss (1961)

"You are blocking my path. You are right in my way.  
I'm a North-Going Zax and I always go north.  
Get out of my way, now, and let me go forth."

"Who's in whose way?" snapped the South-Going Zax.  
"I always go south, making south-going tracks.  
So you're in MY way! And I ask you to move  
And let me go south in my south-going groove."

Then the North-Going Zax puffed his chest up with pride.  
"I never," he said, "take a step to one side.  
And I'll prove to you that I won't change my ways  
If I have to keep standing here fifty-nine days!"

"And I'll prove to YOU," yelled the South-Going Zax,  
"that I can stand here in the Prairie of Prax  
For fifty-nine years! For I live by a rule  
That I learned as a boy back in South-Going School.  
Never budge! That's my rule. Never budge in the least!  
Not an inch to the west! Not an inch to the east!  
I'll stay here, not budging! I can and I will  
If it makes you and me and the whole world stand still!"

Well ... Of course the world didn't stand still. The world grew.  
In a couple of years, the new highway came through  
And they built it right over those two stubborn Zax  
And left them there, standing un-budged in their tracks.

**Problem 1.** The *thesis* of an article is a claim or position on an issue or topic put forward and supported by evidence.

- (a) What is the author's thesis? That is, what is the moral of this story?
- (b) What is the author's argument? That is, what evidence does he present to support his thesis?
- (c) What counterarguments might be given?