

(A) Colors have specific significance based on the various meanings our culture associates with them, and we use them like a simple language. Blood is red, for example, so red in many cultures is seen to be an aggressive color and is used both as a warning, as in the sign system used for road traffic, and to signify passion, as in the gift of a red rose. In traffic signs, green, the color of nature and harmony, is used as the opposite of red to mean 'safe to go'. Perhaps because we associate darkness and 'the night' with death, clothes at funerals are black to acknowledge mourning, whereas at carnivals we put together as many bright, primary colors as possible.

(B) Did you ever think, when you held or looked at a beautiful pearl, that its origin was irritation? An oyster, in response to the irritating presence of sand within its shell, creates a thing of beauty. Not only is the conflict resolved but value is created. When we understand that conflict includes the potential for us to create beautiful pearls and contribute to the world and to ourselves, then we begin to open up our shells, less concerned about letting life in. Embracing conflict can become a joy when we know that irritation and frustration can lead to growth and fascination.

(A)
(B)