**Directions: Read and annotate the following passage. Then, from the options below, choose the sentence that best states the main idea.**

**! ? ~~~**

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| Birds have long played a central role in superstitions. However, the role birds have played varies greatly. While crows were thought to be in league with the devil, blue birds were usually considered signs of good fortune. Blue jays, in contrast, were seldom assigned a positive role in superstition and legend. Most of the time, they were considered companions to the devil. According to one ancient superstition, blue jays were never seen on Fridays. Friday was their day to meet with the devil and pass on any useful gossip about souls who might be ready to go astray. Owls, in contrast, have played a number of different roles, some good, some bad. In several superstitions they are portrayed as wise counselors; in others they are a sign that death is near. | | |
|  | **Main Idea:** | |
|  | **a. Despite having the same color, blue jays and blue birds have played very different roles in superstitions.** |  |
|  | **b. Birds turn up frequently in superstitions as signs of both good and evil.** |
|  | **c. Hardly a superstition exists that doesn’t have a bird in it.** |