Understanding the Satire of South Park

Before you can get the significance/meaning of an episode of South Park, you need to understand some of the elements of fiction and the concept of satire.

Satire ridicules the habits, follies, abuses, and shortcomings of society, ideally with the intent of shaming individuals, corporations, and society itself, into improvement.[1] Although satire is usually meant to be funny, its greater purpose is often constructive [social criticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_criticism), using [wit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wit) as a weapon and as a tool to draw attention to both particular and wider issues in society.

South Park does this well.

Watch the episode Something Wall-Mart This Way Comes and answer the following questions.

1. What is the episode about?
2. Who is the protagonist (main character)?
3. What is the conflict?
4. What is the climax of the story?
5. Describe the behavior of the children?
6. Describe the character of the adults?
7. Why can’t the citizens stop shopping at Wall-Mart, even though they hate it?
8. In this episode Wall-Mart, in many ways, is personified. Describe the character of Wall-Mart.
9. What is the show’s message regarding Bob’s Drug Mart becoming so successful and as a result the citizens burn it down?
10. Personal opinion: Is a corporation like Wal-Mart good for our society?