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Topic: Author's Purpose

Expectation: On this worksheet you will learn about and answer questions on the author's purpose in reading passages.

The **author's purpose** is his or her reason for writing something. There are three main reasons that authors have for writing. These are to entertain, persuade, and inform. Examples of passages written to entertain include stories, poems, and plays. Examples of passages written to persuade include essays and ads. And examples of passages written to inform include internet entries and text books.

Here's an example:

A story about Tamika going to the zoo with her dad to see polar bears.

What is the author's purpose? The purpose is to entertain. Stories are written to entertain. This is a story.



Tips:

1. Ask yourself "Why did the author write this?"
2. To inform: Is to give you information about something; To persuade: Is to convince you to do something or to agree with the author; To entertain: Is to provide you with a story just for fun.
3. Often when authors write, they're trying to get readers to feel a certain way. Perhaps the author of an article about whale conservation wants readers to feel sad about the plight of whales. Or the author of a letter may want to make the recipient feel better about a situation. After you read a text, stop and ask: "How do I feel? And how did the author get you to feel this way?"





Read or listen to the passage below. Then answer the questions that follow.

Total

/6

A Loud Concert

Sam is going to a concert today. He is excited. His brother plays the guitar. Sam's family arrives at the school.

The music starts. Sam's brother holds his guitar. He plucks the strings. They vibrate and make sound.

Sam's eardrums start to vibrate too. Then Sam hears the piano. The music gets louder. A girl plays the drums. The sound waves hit Sam's ears. It's too loud.

Sam's ears start to hurt. His mom gives him a pair of earplugs. Sam puts them in his ears. Ah! Now the sound is not too loud.

6. What is the purpose of the passage? What part of the passage shows us the purpose? Write or tell a one sentence summary of the passage. (Each question is worth 2 marks.)





Read or listen to each of the following and decide if the purpose was to persuade, inform, or entertain.

Explain your reasoning. Each question is worth 3 marks.

Total

/9

A. This pie is so delicious, you will want to go buy one right now! Pies are on sale today for \$3.99. Don't miss this chance! Eating pie is good for you!

B. Have you ever had a durian? This is a fruit that isn't often found in the U.S. This kind of fruit grows in some warm countries in the eastern half of the world. Durians are big fruits. They are about the size of a football. They are brownish green and hard on the outside. And they are covered with spikes!

C. Rosie's dad drove to the river. They saw the sun come up in the sky.

"Look at the sunrise," Rosie said.

She and her dad caught two fish. They ate lunch. Then they drove back home.





7. a) What is the author's purpose in passage A?

b) What is the author's purpose in passage B?

c) What is the author's purpose in passage C?

