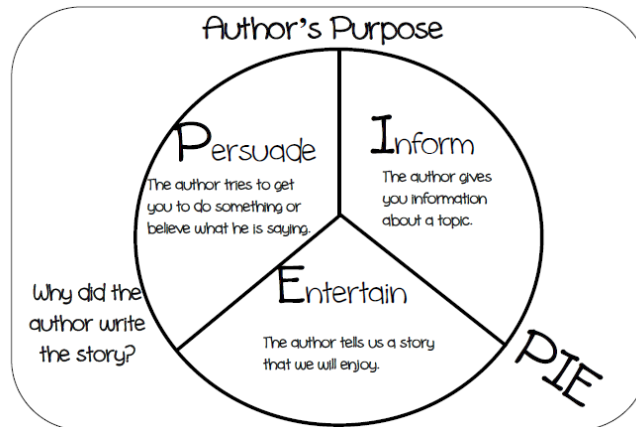


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Comprehension

### *Author's Purpose Notes and Strategies*



### What is Author's Purpose?

Author's always write for a reason. Everything you read has a purpose. The author's purpose is either ***to describe, to entertain, to explain or inform, or to persuade.***

### How Do You Identify the Author's Purpose?

Every reading passage is written for a reason. When you read, ask yourself, ***"What does the author want me to know?"*** Your answer will help you figure out the author's purpose. Let's read the passage below and try to figure out the author's purpose.

In early colonial days, children learned what they could at home from their parents. Their parents, however, often couldn't read or write. In time, women began teaching in their homes. These first schools were called *"dame schools."* In 1647, a law was passed in New England Colonies requiring towns with fifty or more families to set up elementary schools. By the 1700's one-room school houses were common.

Think about what the author wants you to know. Let's find the author's purpose.



First, let's narrow down the choices in the chart below.

Check "yes" or "no" for each choice. You can check "yes" only ONCE.

Purpose for Writing	Details	Yes	No
Describe	Does the passage give mostly details about a particular person, place, or thing?		
Entertain	Does the passage tell a humorous story or teach a lesson?		
Persuade	Does the passage try to get you to do or buy something?		
Explain	Does the passage give facts about something or tell how to do something?		

Write the choice that has a check mark next to "yes."

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**Write what you think the author's purpose is for writing each of the following. Tell if the author's purpose is to *describe*, to *entertain*, to *explain*, or to *persuade*.**

**A newspaper article about a city's water supply.**

The author's purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_.

**A humorous narrative about a personal experience.**

The author's purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_.

**An advertisement for laundry detergent.**

The author's purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_.

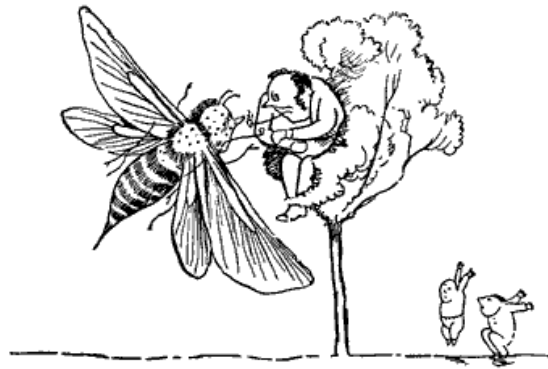
**A paragraph about a koala's habitat.**

The author's purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Read this poem by Edward Lear. As you read, think about why the author probably wrote the poem. (*\* This poem is called a Limerick – a short, funny poem*).

### There Was an Old Man in a Tree

There was an Old Man in a tree,  
Who was horribly bored by a Bee;  
When they said, "Does it buzz?" he replied, "Yes, it does!"  
It's a regular brute of Bee."



The author probably wrote this poem to make readers laugh or smile.

The author's purpose is to *a) persuade b) entertain c) explain d) persuade.*

### Quick Re-Cap:

All authors write for a reason. The reason an author writes something is called the author's purpose. When you figure out why a reading passage was written, you are **identifying the author's purpose**. Author's write for one of four reasons – **to describe, to entertain, to explain or inform, and to persuade**.

- If a reading passage contains many **details** about a person, place, or thing, the author's purpose is to **describe**.

- If a reading passage is enjoyable to read, tells a personal story, or uses a story to teach a lesson, the author's purpose is to **entertain**.
- If a reading passage provides **facts** about a particular subject or tells readers **how to do something**, the author's purpose is to **explain or inform**.
- If a reading passage contains many **opinions** or tries to get readers to **do something, buy something, or believe something**, the author's purpose is to **persuade**.