



Author's purpose

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

An author can write to:

<u>P</u> ersuade	<u>I</u> nform	<u>E</u> ntertain
Get you to do something or believe something	Give you information	Tell you a story you will enjoy

Sometimes, an author writes for just one purpose.

Other times, an author writes for more than one purpose.

Read each passage. Underline details that may help you figure out the author's purpose(s). Then answer the questions!

Passage #1: How to Make a Simple Bird Feeder

Materials:

- Paper towel roll (empty)
- Peanut butter or sunflower butter
- Bird seed
- Butter knife or spoon
- Plate
- String



1. Spread the peanut butter all over the outside of the paper towel roll. (Tip: Place your fingers on the inside of the roll to hold it!)
2. Pour some of the bird seed onto a plate. Then carefully roll the sticky paper towel roll around in the seed until it's completely covered. It may be helpful to pick some bird seed up with your hands and drop it onto the roll, too.
3. Thread the string through the paper towel roll's hole. Then tie the two ends together. Make it loose enough so that it can be used to hang the bird feeder.
4. Hang your bird feeder in a location where you've seen birds—whether it's from a branch or from a hook on your windowsill.



5. Then sit back and wait for the birds to come! It may be interesting to keep a journal where you note the birds you've seen and try to identify them.

What is the author's main purpose? Circle one.

Persuade

Inform

Entertain

Why did you choose this purpose? Explain with evidence from the text!

Passage #2: Presidential Speech

"Hello, I am the President of the Fourth Grade Class. I was elected in October to help lead my classmates and help the school make decisions that will be beneficial to my peers.

Today, I'm giving this speech to you, Principal Owens, in hopes of convincing you to start letting students make some of the school rules.

My first reason why I think you should let students help make some of the school rules is that we have good ideas about what will work in our school! We are in the hallways, the classrooms and the cafeteria every day. This school is our life, and we want it to succeed. We also know all the ins and outs of what works and what doesn't work. If you let us help you make some of the school rules, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with our ideas.

My second reason why I think you should let students help make some of the school rules is because it would help teach us teamwork and responsibility. In order to come up with these rules, students will have to be thoughtful and work together. They will have to listen to each other and narrow down their ideas to those that they agree are best.





My final reason why I think you should let students help make some of the school rules is that students will follow rules better if they play a role in making them. There are many students today who think our school has too many rules or that our school rules don't entirely make sense. If students can help make the rules, they will believe in their importance and will be more likely to follow them!

I hope you take some time to consider my arguments, Principal Owens. If you decide that students can help you make some of the school rules, I don't think you will be disappointed."

What is the author's main purpose? Circle one.

Persuade

Inform

Entertain

Why did you choose this purpose? Explain with evidence from the text!

Passage #3: A Texting Story

The following texts between Mittens the Cat and Comet the Dog were sent from 4 Field Road, home of Melanie and Jack Smith.

Mittens: Did you eat my treat again?

Comet: Your treat? What made it your treat? It was on the floor. On the floor means it was for a pet, and I saw it first.

Mittens: Since when are treats that are shaped like a mouse and flavored like tuna for you?

Comet: Well... since yesterday?

Mittens: It was not for you! It was not even for us! It was for me!



Comet: Why are you texting me about this? Why don't you just come down and talk to me? I'm curled up by Melanie's feet watching some TV.

Mittens: I'm just too upset to see you right now. Plus, you know I don't like to share Melanie time with you. I prefer when I have her full attention!

(five minutes later)

Comet: Hey, come quick! Melanie left to go talk on the phone and she left the snack cabinet door open. I can see all sorts of good treats.

Mittens: Okay, fine. I'm coming. I get first dibs, though. It's only fair.

Comet: Fine. This time, I agree. Can you stop judging me when I hide from the vacuum, though?

Mittens: Maybe, but no promises.



What is the author's main purpose? Circle one.

Persuade

Inform

Entertain

Why did you choose this purpose? Explain with evidence from the text!



Passage #4: Unbelievable Weather!

In general, the weather is pretty predictable. When you open your weather app, you're likely to see some combination of sun, rain, snow or wind. Sometimes, though, the weather can be weird! Imagine if one day you saw raining frogs in the forecast?

It sounds unbelievable, but there have actually been reports of animals like fish falling from the sky. This happens when strong storms like tornadoes lift them high into the sky. These animals then eventually fall back down like rain. Can you imagine walking outside and getting hit by a falling fish?



In other places, you might see colorful snow in the forecast. Yep, that's right: Imagine purple snow! Places like Russia and some U.S. states have seen this happen. The color may be caused by tiny pieces of sand or dust that have been carried by the wind. It's sometimes also caused by algae that can make the snow look pink, green or purple! If you notice colorful snow, definitely snap a picture but try not to eat it. It probably isn't very good for you.

There's also the phenomenon of "ball lightning." Have you ever seen this before? During storms, people have reported seeing glowing balls of light that float in the air. Some people say they are roughly the size of an orange, while others say they can be even bigger. They tend to disappear after just a few seconds and scientists still aren't sure what causes them! Some argue they're a trick of the eye but others seem to believe that they're real.

Moral of the story? The weather can be pretty wild! The next time you see a storm approaching, though, don't worry. While you may be in for purple snow, raining fish or ball lightning, chances are high that it's just rain!

The author likely had two purposes for writing this piece. What are the author's purposes? Circle two.

Persuade

Inform

Entertain

Why did you choose these two purposes? Explain with evidence from the text!



Answers

Passage #1: Inform
Passage #2: Persuade
Passage #3: Entertain
Passage #4: Inform, Entertain

Why did you choose this purpose or purposes? Explain with evidence from the text!

Accept any student responses as long as they include text evidence and explain how this evidence supports the correct author's purposes.