Author’s Purpose
Did You Know?

Authors write for several reasons.

Many authors write to entertain people and make them laugh. Authors also write to persuade or convince their readers to believe in something. Sometimes authors write to inform or teach you about something.

When we read, it is important for us to understand 'why the piece was written'.

Carefully read each paragraph below and decide why the author wrote this piece. Click on your choice below each question.
Joe had been fishing for over two hours without a single bite. Suddenly there was a nibble at the end of his fishing line. He stood up on the boat and leaned out too far. Just then there was a sharp yank on the line. Joe fell overboard and landed head first into the water. Joe and his friends laughed and laughed.

What is the author's purpose?

**entertain persuade inform**

The giant panda is a bearlike animal that has thick white fur with black markings on its ears, limbs, shoulders, and around its eyes. The giant panda feeds on bamboo forests at high altitudes in western China. It also eats bulbs, roots, eggs, and some small mammals. The cubs are born in late winter. The giant panda is an endangered species and is protected by the Chinese government.

The purpose of writing this piece was to _____.

**entertain persuade inform**
It's New! It's Refreshing!
It's Slurpy Soda!
This is the best soda in the world! If you drink this soda
you will jump higher, run faster and be smarter in school.
Try one today!

Why did the author write this piece?

entertain persuade inform
For most people, dogs and cats are the perfect pets. But for others, regular house pets don't cut it. They pay big money or steal to get rare pets that no one else has.

Worldwide, about $6 billion worth of rare animals are stolen each year. These animals include birds, monkeys, tigers, and giraffes. In some cases, they are stolen from zoos. In others, they are taken from the wild habitats where they live.

Now special animal agents are trying to stop these thefts. They try to trap crooks by fooling them with lifelike decoys, or fake animals. "We use giant stuffed animals, bear decoys, and 'robodeer,' which have moving heads," said Dave Croonquist, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It is hoped that these efforts will keep these animals safe. They are valuable to thieves and desired by collectors. This is because there are so few of them left in the world.
Slicing Up Style

1. The author’s purpose is to
   - inform
   - persuade
   - entertain
   Evidence:

2. The author’s tone is
   - formal
   - informal
   - both
   Evidence:

3. The author’s word choice is
   - dull
   - colorful
   - unique
   Evidence:

4. The author’s overall style is
Fiction

Asking questions

Title: __________________________
Author: ________________________

As you read the story, think about its elements. What do you wonder? Write questions about the story elements shown below.

Characters

Setting

Problem

Solution

Story Topic

Sweet Questions

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**Author's Viewpoint**

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then read each question about the passage. Choose the best answer to each question. Mark the letter for the answer you have chosen.

**Save That Green!!**

Dear Editor,

What will be built on the last green area in the center of town? Will it be an unhealthy fast-food spot or another parking lot? We don’t need those! There are two diners within a few blocks of the area, and people usually don’t drive into the town center. Everyone knows there are always plenty of places to park on Mattingly Avenue and on Ruth Street.

What we need is a park to protect the gnarled old oak tree growing there. Everyone knows the tree I mean, the one with the trunk that’s too big to put your arms around! That tree has been there for more than 100 years. Children climb it and use it as a lookout when they play pirates. Cows used to graze in its shade. Many a pair of sweethearts met underneath its leafy branches.

The old oak tree has its small place in history too. The great American writer Mark Twain once rested under it! He told the story in a letter. His train was late and he strolled into the town. Tired from his long day’s journey, he stretched out in the shade of the oak and took a nap.

That old tree and this town both need a cool, peaceful park, not another parking lot. Let’s save the green and tree!

Signed,
Theresa Ver

1. The main purpose of this article is to—
   A. entertain.
   B. persuade.
   C. explain.
   D. express.

2. Which of the following is a statement of fact that the author uses to support her argument?
   F. A parking lot will be built on the lot.
   G. The town does not need another park.
   H. Mark Twain once rested under the tree.
   J. Fast-food shops are unnecessary.

3. The author hopes readers will agree that—
   A. the oak tree must be saved.
   B. the town needs more parking.
   C. Mark Twain was a great writer.
   D. cows should be allowed to graze in the center of town again.

4. Words used to influence the reader include—
   F. pirates, cows
   G. trunk, branches
   H. train, nap
   J. unhealthy, peaceful

5. The author believes that—
   A. Mark Twain deserves a monument.
   B. a park would be the best use of the space around the tree.
   C. nothing more must be built in town.
   D. oak trees are the best trees.

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**Notes for Home:** Your child identified the author's viewpoint in a letter to the editor. *Home Activity:* Discuss with your child an author's viewpoint for individual letters to editors from the local newspaper.
67 Green Avenue
Leeds

January 6th

Dear Anne,

It was great to receive your card. It's good to keep in touch. I hope you and Mike had a good Christmas this year.

We had a grand family occasion. James and Denise came and brought little Lyndsey who is six months old now. Debbie has a new boyfriend called David. He is six foot four, and kept us in fits of laughter all day. He seems nice enough.

Where are you going on holiday this year? We're thinking of Spain again.

Do let me know how your family is getting on.

Love from

Marie

1. What do you think is the main purpose of this piece of writing?
   A. To keep in touch with a friend
   B. To persuade her to do something
   C. To give information about things which have happened
   D. To tell her how to do something

2. What sort of writing is this?
   A. An email
   B. A note
   C. An informal letter
   D. A formal letter
READ THE FOLLOWING AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

"Are your parents in, little girl?" asked the man at the door.
"They was, but they's out now," she said.
"Where's your grammar, child?"
"In the kitchen making the tea."

1. What is the main purpose of this piece of writing?
   A. To entertain or amuse
   B. To teach us about grammar
   C. To warn us about annoying people calling at the door
   D. To inform us about grammar problems

2. What sort of text is this?
   A. A story
   B. A joke
   C. Instructions
   D. Advertisement

3. Who is meant to read this?
   A. One particular person
   B. Grandma
   C. A little girl
   D. Anyone
23 London Road
Manchester
M88 3YT
Jan 1 2002

Dear Lisa,

Thanks for your letter which arrived on Tuesday. I'm glad to hear the new baby is doing well. Maybe I'll get to see her soon.

Things are going all right here in Leeds. Amanda is enjoying her new job. I've started a new course at the local college, and I'm hoping to go on another next year where I will get an NVQ qualification.

I hope we'll see you soon.

Yours

David

1. What is the main purpose of this text?
   A. To explain why he hasn’t visited Lisa
   B. To tell Lisa how to start a new course
   C. To tell Lisa how he is getting on
   D. To entertain

2. What sort of text is this?
   A. Advertisement
   B. Email
   C. Business letter
   D. Personal Letter
READ AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

To get to the library at college.
First go in through the front door.
Ahead of you is the reception desk.
Turn left and go into the lobby.
Turn right. The library is the first entrance on your left.
Don't forget your student card.

1. **What is the main purpose of this piece of writing?**
   A. To explain why it is important to take your card to the library
   B. To inform students of what is in the library
   C. To explain how to get to the library
   D. To persuade us to visit the library

2. **What sort of text is this?**
   A. A note
   B. An email
   C. A memo
   D. Instructions

3. **Who is primarily meant to read this?**
   A. A visitor
   B. The librarian
   C. A student
   D. Anyone at all
Fresh Pea Soup

Knob of butter
1 mild onion finely chopped
400 grams shelled peas
Half a litre of water
3 tablespoons cream
Pepper and salt to taste

1. Melt butter in pan and fry onions for a few minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Add the peas and water, then the seasoning.
3. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Blend the soup in a food processor and sieve.
5. Stir in the cream and reheat if necessary.

1. What is the main purpose of this text?
   A. To inform us that pea soup is easy to make
   B. To inform us of the quantities needed
   C. To keep us entertained
   D. To tell us how to make pea soup

2. What sort of text is this?
   A. Message
   B. Story
   C. Advertisement
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3. Who is meant to read this text?
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   C. Friends
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### Author's Purpose Graphic Organizer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage Title</th>
<th>Main Idea</th>
<th>Details to support Main Idea</th>
<th>How the author feels about topic</th>
<th>Explanation of author's purpose</th>
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This graphic organizer can be used to analyze the purpose behind a passage. Fill in the columns with relevant information to better understand the author's intent.