

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: Under the Sea

Did you know that deep under the ocean, whales communicate through song? While the songs may not be what you typically picture when you think of music, they are long and low sounds that are capable of traveling for miles underwater. Some of their songs sound like moans and whistles, while others rise and fall and sound more musical. Humpback whales are most famous for singing. Scientists use underwater microphones called hydrophones to listen to, record and study whale songs. Here are some of the things they understand and are still learning:

Scientists Hypothesize Why Whales Sing:

Even though scientists have been listening to whale songs for years, they're still learning what they mean. Some of their best hypotheses (or educated guesses) are:



- To communicate: The songs may be used to send messages to other whales, whether it's to suggest activities or share their location.
- To find a mate: Male whales may sing to attract females!
- To explore the ocean: It's also possible that whales sing to better understand their surroundings. By making noises and listening for echoes, whales can "see" better in the dark.

Cool Facts Scientists Understand:

- Whales are smart, social mammals with their own unique way of communicating.
- A single whale song can be up to 30 minutes long... and they may repeat it over and over again for hours!
- Whales change their tunes over time. Every year, their songs may be a little different from the year before.

Whale scientists called cetologists are still working hard to understand what every whale sound means! Would you be interested in helping them learn more about these giant underwater creatures one day?

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: Stranded!

A Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Story

You slowly open your eyes and look around. You have to use your hand to shield your eyes from the sun. It takes a moment for you to take everything in, but then you realize that you're all wet. Your boat seems to be gone. There is sand everywhere. It is very, very warm.

Are you on an island?

You stand up and look around. You see palm trees filled with coconuts at the end of the beach. To the left is a big hill. To the right is the ocean. You see something shiny where the waves are breaking.



You decide to...

- Climb the hill to get a better view of the island. **[Proceed to Section A]**
- Investigate the shiny object by the ocean. **[Proceed to Section B]**

Section A: You climb the hill to get a better view of the island

Whew, it's a steep hike and the sun is hot, but you eventually make it to the very top. You slowly and carefully turn in a circle and look all around. You really can see the whole island from up here! Smoke is slowly rising from one section of the island, near what looks like a cleared-out portion of the forest. Is it possible that you're not alone?

You decide to...

- Continue on toward the smoke **[Proceed to Section C]**
- Build your own smoke signal and stay where you are **[Proceed to Section D]**

Section B: Investigate the shiny object by the ocean

You walk quickly down the beach until you reach the shiny object. You realize it's actually a big metal box that is reflecting sunlight! The lock is broken, so you try to open the lid. It's tricky to open, but eventually you succeed. Inside, you find a flashlight, a snack, rope and what looks like a small raft!

You decide to...

- Take out the raft and see if you can blow it up. Maybe then you can leave! **[Proceed to Section E]**
- Grab the gear, store it somewhere safe and explore the island. **[Proceed to Section F]**



Section C: Continue on toward the smoke

For what seems like hours, you walk carefully toward the smoke and through the trees. Eventually, you reach a tiny hut made of branches, mud and leaves. Inside, you find an adult around your parents' age. Thankfully, he is friendly. It turns out he crash-landed on the island years ago! He is just as happy as you to find another human and you start making plans to get off the island.

The end.

Section D: Build your own smoke signal and stay where you are

You begin to gather as many dry sticks as you can find. Luckily, you know how to make a fire without matches! After assembling a huge pile, you start the fire. It

must not have rained recently because the wood burns well and the smoke rises high into the sky.

What seems like hours later, a small plane flies overhead. It doesn't see you at first...but then it circles back! You wave like crazy and someone seems to see you. It slowly descends and lands on the beach. You have a ride home!



The end.

Section E: Take out the raft and see if you can blow it up. Maybe then you can leave!

It turns out there are lots of holes in the raft, so you must fix those first. Thankfully, leaves seem to do the trick. You spend hours repairing the raft. It's not perfect (or beautiful), but it floats. You grab the rest of your supplies and you tie them onto the raft. Then you jump on and push off. After a day and night of paddling, you finally come across a fishing boat. They actually spot you before you spot them. Before you know it, you're rescued!

The end.

Section F: Grab the gear, store it somewhere safe and explore the island.

You head toward the trees to see what you can find. After what seems like hours, you reach a tiny hut made of branches, mud and leaves. Inside, you find an adult around your parents' age. Thankfully, they're friendly and it turns out they crash-landed on the island years ago! They are just as happy to find another human and you start making plans to get off the island.

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: Learn to Cook

By Izzie Grande

When you picture someone cooking, who do you picture? If you picture an adult, it's time to think again! Cooking isn't just a skill for adults. It's a skill that kids can learn and help with too! Whether it's making a snack, cooking dinner or baking a sweet dessert, cooking comes in many forms. Plus, unlike some things, you can keep getting better at cooking as you get older!

One reason that kids should learn to cook is because it can help you be more independent. Isn't it frustrating to have to wait for someone to cook for you all the time? If you start with the basics, like how to make a sandwich or how to scramble an egg, you'll be learning how to take care of yourself. Trust me, it will feel good to be able to take care of yourself when you're hungry!

Cooking is also good for your brain. It teaches you how to follow instructions and solve problems! When you cook, you often have to follow a recipe. The recipe requires you to pay attention, measure ingredients and set timers. Paying attention to details is important in cooking because one mistake can change how everything comes out! Cooking will teach you all kinds of good lessons.

Learning how to cook is also a great excuse to spend time with your family. Think about someone in your own life who loves to cook. Is it your mom, your dad, your uncle or maybe your grandma? We bet they'll be thrilled if you ask them to teach you how to make something. Usually, people like to share their passions with others, especially if it's with someone they love!

I challenge you to close this magazine, wash your hands, put on an apron and get started. Remember that all great cooks had to start somewhere. There's no better place to start than exactly where you are!



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: Before you visit that pet store, consider adoption!

Is your family thinking about getting a pet? While many people automatically head to a pet store to look for a new animal, consider visiting an animal shelter!

Animal shelters are full of cats and dogs (and sometimes even other pets like rabbits or guinea pigs) that need homes. These animals were often alone outside or brought in by owners who couldn't take care of them anymore. These animals all need a home and, when you adopt them, you're giving them a second chance!

Some people think that pets from shelters might be hard to train or love. This isn't usually true! Most animals in shelters are friendly and healthy. Some have even been trained already. Shelters will take them to the vet and check them for health problems. They'll also observe if they have any qualities that might make them difficult as a pet. They'll then tell you all these details when you visit. More often than not, pets in shelters cannot wait to join a new family.

Another reason that your family might want to consider adoption from a shelter is that shelters usually cost less than pet stores! Pet stores can be expensive. When you adopt an animal from a shelter, not only is the price usually lower, but it also includes important things like shots! So please consider animal adoption: it's a kind choice, a smart choice and a life-changing choice for both you and the animal!

If you and your family are ready to begin looking for a pet, encourage them to visit a local shelter. If you're not sure where to start, you could ask a local veterinarian to recommend one. Or, your family could use the internet to search for animal shelters in your area. Your town's website may even have a list of nearby animal services! Once you do visit a shelter, we're confident you'll meet your new best friend. So please consider animal adoption: It's a kind choice, a smart choice and a life-changing choice... for both you and the animal!



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 purposes? Explain with evidence from the text!

Answers

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

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.