

# Author's purpose: Persuade, inform, entertain

## Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

All authors have a reason for writing! An author may 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 or teach you something	Tell you a story you will enjoy

**Underline details that may help you figure out the author's purpose. Then answer the questions.**

### Passage #1: Plastic's Journey

When you put a plastic bottle into a recycling bin, it doesn't magically turn into something new! There is a pretty long process that it must go through first. First, the bottle is collected and taken to a recycling center. Here, it is sorted with all the other recyclable materials. Workers and machines separate plastics from paper, glass and metal.

Next, the plastic is cleaned and shredded into very small pieces called flakes. These flakes are then melted down into pellets, which are tiny plastic pieces that look like small beads. Factories use these pellets to make new plastic products. Some of the recycled plastic becomes clothing, while other parts of the recycled plastic become new bottles, reusable bags, toys or even furniture!

Not all plastic can be recycled, though. About 25% of plastics are called thermoset plastics. These types of plastics don't soften when they are exposed to heat, so they're extremely difficult to recycle. Most of this plastic still winds up in landfills. This is why reducing the amount of plastic we buy and reusing the plastic that we have is important. Reducing, reusing and recycling can help protect the environment and reduce waste.



**Identify: What is the author's main purpose?**

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**Explain: Use at least three details from the text to explain the author's purpose.**

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### **Passage #2: Why Schools Should Protect Recess**

Though recess is often just viewed as a break from learning, it is actually an extremely important part of a student's school day. When students have enough time to play, be active and spend time with their friends, they are able to return to class more focused and more prepared to learn. Many studies have shown that physical activity helps improve concentration, mood and even memory.

Recess also gives students time to develop their social skills. When playing with others on the playground, children learn how to cooperate, solve problems and handle disagreements. There is no textbook for answers and sometimes not even a correct answer. It's all about practicing social skills! Many people would argue that these skills are just as important as math or science. These are the skills that help prepare students for real-life situations outside of the classroom.



In order to make more time for academics, some schools have shortened recess or removed it entirely from the school day. In some school districts, children only get 10-15 minutes of outdoor time each day. In others, both lunch and recess are given a total of 30 minutes. In this case, once students have eaten their lunch, there is very little time for outdoor play! While some adults think this will help students learn, taking away recess may actually make learning harder. Students need time to move and recharge. When they don't have it, they will likely feel restless and distracted. It will be harder for them to concentrate, much less learn, as the day goes on. Protecting recess and keeping it during the school day protects both students' health and their ability to succeed in the classroom.

**Identify: What is the author's main purpose?**

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**Explain: Use at least three details from the text to explain the author's purpose.**

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**Passage #3: Inside**

The wind hisses.  
The rain beats down.  
Tree branches scrape against the windows.  
Thunder rumbles in the sky.  
Yet the day is calm.

Inside, the teapot whistles.  
The washing machine hums.  
The cat sighs as he curls up by the fire.  
The day is calm.

The clock ticks softly on the wall.  
Pages turn quietly.  
A timer dings as the scents of cookies fill the air.  
The day is calm.

Outside, the storm feels far away.  
Time goes by slowly inside this little house.  
The world seems small and warm.  
The day is calm.



**Identify: What is the author's main purpose?**

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**Explain: Use at least three details from the text to explain the author's purpose.**

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## Answers

### Passage #1: Plastic's Journey

**Identify:** The author's main purpose is to inform.

**Explain:** *Answers can vary. Here is a sample:*

The author explains the steps of recycling, such as collecting bottles, sorting materials and turning plastic into flakes and pellets. The text also includes facts, like that about 25% of plastics cannot be recycled. It explains what thermoset plastics are and why they are difficult to recycle. These details show the author is giving information and teaching the reader how recycling works.

### Passage #2: Why Schools Should Protect Recess

**Identify:** The author's main purpose is to persuade readers that recess is important.

**Explain:** *Answers can vary. Here is a sample:*

The author gives reasons why recess is important, such as helping students focus better and improve their mood and memory. The text also explains that recess helps students build social skills like cooperation and problem-solving. It includes opinions, such as saying these skills are just as important as math or science. The author also argues that taking away recess can make learning harder. These details show the author is trying to convince readers that recess should be protected, not just give information.

### Passage #3: Inside

**Identify:** The author's main purpose is to entertain.

**Explain:** *Answers can vary. Here is a sample:*

The author uses descriptive language, like “the wind hisses,” “the teapot whistles” and “the cat sighs” to help the reader imagine the scene. The repeated line “The day is calm” helps create a peaceful mood. The details about sounds, smells and feelings inside the house help the reader picture what it is like. These details show the author is trying to create an image and feelings for the reader, not give facts or convince them of something.