

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: A Day Without Electricity

The lights flickered off, then on, and then off completely. At first Kara thought someone had just turned the lights off. However, when the TV wouldn't turn on, the fridge stopped humming and the microwave clock stayed dark, she realized something was wrong. The power had never gone off like this before!

By the afternoon, everything felt too quiet. There was no music playing in the background of the kitchen, and there was no sound of her brother playing video games. Kara and her brother ended up playing a board game they hadn't touched in years. Neither of them was so sure about it at first, but they wound up having a blast! They played, and laughed and teased each other for hours.

When the electricity came back on later that night, Kara felt relieved but also a little disappointed. She had missed her phone and the option of watching some TV, but she hadn't missed all the busyness that came along with technology. It had been fun to have no distractions while she played with her brother all afternoon. As she plugged in her phone charger to reconnect with the rest of the world, she realized she almost hoped the electricity would go out again!



Identify: What is the author's main purpose?

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

Passage #2: Global Positioning Systems

GPS stands for *Global Positioning System*.

What does it do? GPS helps people find their location anywhere on Earth.

How does it work? GPS systems function thanks to satellites that orbit the planet. These satellites send signals down to GPS receivers in car navigation systems, smartphones and more. By measuring how long these signals take to arrive, the device is able to calculate its location. A GPS system needs signals from at least four satellites to accurately determine its location. This entire process happens in a matter of seconds and continues to repeat itself as you move.

What can it do? Once your device knows your location, it is able to give directions that help you reach your destination. These directions can include estimates of travel time and suggested routes. When traveling to a new place, many people would be completely lost (no pun intended!) without their GPS. GPS is used for more than just driving and walking directions, though. It's also used for guiding airplanes, helping ships navigate safely and tracking weather.



What can't it do? GPS does not always work perfectly in every situation. Bad weather, tunnels, lack of cell service and even tall buildings can weaken satellite signals. For this reason, it's important that people still pay attention to their surroundings. Though many people do, it's never a smart decision to rely entirely on your GPS!

Identify: What is the author's main purpose?

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

Passage #3: The Most Important Meal of the Day

According to surveys, students report that they skip breakfast in the morning for three main reasons: 1) Because they are in a rush; 2) Because they wake up late and don't have time; and 3) Because they just don't feel hungry. Eating breakfast, however, is an important way to start the day. Breakfast gives the body and brain energy. When children eat breakfast, especially a balanced breakfast, they are more prepared to focus and listen.



Studies show that students who eat breakfast in the morning do better throughout the day. They are more likely to pay attention, and they tend to perform better on tests. Breakfast can also help improve students' moods as well as help them feel less tired. When students haven't eaten breakfast, they are more distracted and have lower energy by the time lunchtime comes around.

Parents and students may think that eating breakfast will take a lot of time in the morning. However, eating breakfast can be quick! Simple foods like fruit, yogurt, eggs or toast are all easy and healthy choices. Breakfast cereals without a lot of added sugar can also be a quick and healthy choice. If it's too hard to eat even a quick breakfast at home, some schools give students the option of eating breakfast at school. Sometimes this breakfast is free! If your school has this option, you really don't have an excuse for not eating in the morning.

Because of the benefits of breakfast, it's important that schools and families encourage students to eat breakfast every day. Even a small breakfast can make a big difference in how students feel and perform throughout the day. Starting the day with breakfast makes students more likely to succeed!

Identify: What is the author's main purpose?

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

Answers

Passage #1: A Day Without Electricity

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

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

The author tells a story about Kara losing power and spending time with her brother. Details like playing a board game, laughing and teasing each other help show what happened. The author also describes Kara's feelings, such as being surprised, having fun and feeling a little disappointed when the power comes back. These details show the author is telling a story to entertain the reader, not give facts or persuade.

Passage #2: Global Positioning Systems

Identify: The author's purpose is to inform.

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

The author explains what GPS stands for and how it helps people find their location. The text also describes how GPS works using satellites and signals from at least four satellites. In addition, the author gives examples of how GPS is used for directions, airplanes, ships and weather tracking. These details show that the author's purpose is to inform the reader about GPS systems and how they work.

Passage #3: The Most Important Meal of the Day

Identify: The author's main purpose is to persuade.

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

The author explains that breakfast gives the body and brain energy and helps students focus and listen. The text also includes details about studies showing that students who eat breakfast pay better attention and do better on tests. In addition, the author gives examples of quick and healthy breakfast foods and explains that some schools offer breakfast to students. These details show that the author's purpose is to persuade readers that eating breakfast is important.