

# 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: The Case of the Little Sister

When Eli's teacher asked everyone to take out their math homework, he froze. His blue homework folder was empty... but he *knew* he had finished it the night before! As his classmates pulled out their papers and passed them to the teacher, Eli felt his stomach twist into a knot. He had never forgotten his homework before!

His missing homework was on his mind all morning. Instead of listening to his teacher, he tried to figure out what happened. Had he left it on the kitchen table? Did it fall out of his backpack on his walk to school? Nothing felt right, and he knew he wouldn't be able to focus until he figured out where it was.

Suddenly, as his teacher was reading a book aloud, Eli remembered that his little sister sat down next to him while he was working the night before. The whole time he had been trying to concentrate, she had been drawing pictures, giggling and asking questions. When he got home that afternoon, he rushed into the playroom to the arts and crafts table where they had been sitting.

Even though he shouldn't have, he opened his sister's art box. Aha! There was his homework, covered in purple crayon and lots of glitter. He sighed with relief and laughed at the same time. Even though he was a little annoyed with his sister, he was glad the mystery was finally solved.



His math worksheet would never look the same again, but he was glad to know what had happened!

**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 Practice Matters More than Talent**

Do you think that success comes from talent, or does practice make perfect? While many people believe that success comes from talent that people were born with, practice often plays a bigger role than people think. It may seem like some skills just come naturally, but famous musicians, athletes and even writers spend hours improving their skills. Even stars usually have to work behind the scenes more than people realize.

Practice is important in a number of ways. First, it helps people try new ways of doing things. While a basketball player, for example, might not want to try a new way to shoot during an important game, practice is the perfect time to give it a try! It also helps people learn from mistakes. Every time that someone fails during practice and tries again, they are able to better understand what works and what doesn't work. Over time, these small learnings add up to big improvements and real progress. This is true whether someone is learning to shoot a basketball, play an instrument or solve math problems.



While talent may sometimes be the “special sauce” that helps someone start strong, it’s practice that keeps them going. For others, it could be practice that helps them get going in the first place. When people focus on effort instead of ability, they are more likely to improve and reach their goals!

**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: How Scientists Monitor Volcanoes

Volcanoes are a dangerous and fascinating subject that many people are interested in. Thankfully, scientists have ways to learn about them, study them and give the public warnings before eruptions happen.

#### Seismometers

One tool that scientists use to monitor volcanoes is called a seismometer. This tool measures small earthquakes that are caused by magma moving underground. When the number of these tiny earthquakes increases, it’s often a sign that a volcano is becoming active.



### Ground Observations

Scientists also watch how the ground around a volcano changes shape. As magma starts to rise to the surface, it can cause the land to crack or slowly swell. Scientists measure and track these changes very carefully. Sometimes a change of just a few centimeters can mean an eruption is about to happen.

### Tracking Volcanic Gases

In addition, scientists track and study gases that escape through fumaroles, which are vents in the volcano's surface. Some gases, like sulfur dioxide, increase before an eruption. Scientists track what kind of gas is being released and how it changes in order to predict volcanic eruptions.

By combining information they have collected about earthquakes, ground movement and gas levels, scientists are able to predict volcanic activity and help keep people safe.

**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: The Case of the Little Sister

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

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

The author tells a story about Eli losing his homework and trying to figure out what happened to it. The text includes details like Eli feeling worried, thinking about where he might have lost it and remembering that his sister was nearby. At the end, he finds his homework in his sister's art box, covered in crayon and glitter. These details show the author is telling a story to entertain the reader rather than provide facts or persuade.

### Passage #2: Why Practice Matters More than Talent

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

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

The author explains that practice helps people improve by trying new things and learning from mistakes. The text also gives examples like musicians, athletes and writers who spend many hours practicing. It says that practice leads to improvement over time and helps people reach their goals. These details show the author is trying to convince readers that practice is more important than talent.

### Passage #3: How Scientists Monitor Volcanoes

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

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

The author explains different tools scientists use, such as seismometers to measure earthquakes. The text also describes how scientists observe changes in the ground, like swelling or cracking. In addition, it explains that scientists track gases like sulfur dioxide before eruptions. These details show the author is giving information about how scientists study volcanoes and keep people safe.