



Author's purpose

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

~~~~~

An author's **purpose** is the reason for writing something.

- Sometimes the **purpose** is *to give us information*.
- Sometimes the **purpose** is *to convince us to believe or do something*.
- Sometimes the **purpose** is *to surprise us or make us laugh*.

Sometimes an author has *more than one purpose* for writing.

~~~~~

Here are some short sections of different kinds of writing. Think about the author's **purpose** for writing each one.

Hen listened to the Swallows' stories about the South, beyond the great sea. Hen decided that she would fly South too. She fluttered off down the road and came to a vegetable garden, and a flower garden. When it started to get dark, she went home and told all the animals how wonderful it was in the South.

In the Spring, the Swallows came back to the farm. "We have been to the South," they said, "and the valleys beyond the great sea." But the farm animals would not agree that there was a sea in the South.

"You should hear our Hen," they said.

1. What is the author's purpose for writing? (There may be more than one correct answer.)
 - A. to give us information
 - B. to convince us to believe or do something
 - C. to surprise us or make us laugh

Light cannot pass through a solid object. However, light can pass through transparent objects, such as crystal and water. When a light beam hits a transparent object, it keeps going forward, but it slows down. If you look at the place where an object is partly in and partly out of water, it looks like the object bends at the place where it enters the water.

2. What is the author's purpose for writing? (There may be more than one correct answer.)
- A. to give us information
 - B. to convince us to believe or do something
 - C. to surprise us or make us laugh

Bean's younger brother Beech is 9 years old. Beech is in kindergarten and goes to a different school to his brother, Bean, who is in High School. Beech doesn't like going up the stairs to their apartment. He likes to sit down backwards on the stairs, and push himself up, one step at a time. Bean used to try to talk Beech into walking up the stairs, but now Bean just waits. It isn't easy to get Beech to change his mind about something.

3. What is the author's purpose for writing? (There may be more than one correct answer.)
- A. to give us information
 - B. to convince us to believe or do something
 - C. to surprise us or make us laugh

~~~~~

4. What is another example of something written to give us information?

---

5. What is another example of something to convince us to believe or do something?

---

6. What is another example of something written to surprise us or make us laugh?

---

## Answer Key

1. B and/or C
2. A
3. C
- 4-6 Accept any reasonable responses.