



Author's purpose

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read along with the student, helping as needed.

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

Sometimes the **purpose** is *to give us information*.

Sometimes the **purpose** is *to teach us something*.

Sometimes the **purpose** is *to make us laugh*.  
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Here are some story summaries. Think about the author's **purpose** for writing each one.

Granny Fox wanted Reddy Fox to learn to run across the railroad bridge, but Reddy was scared. So Granny Fox cried out that she heard Bowser the Hound coming toward them. Reddy was even more scared of Bowser the Hound, so he followed Granny across the bridge. But Bowser had not been there at all. Granny had tricked Reddy Fox into running across the bridge!

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?
 - A. to give us information
 - B. to teach us something
 - C. to make us laugh

A fisherman caught a little golden fish. He took pity on the little fish, and let him go. In return, the fish promised that he would come back if the fisherman ever needed help. The fisherman's wife was angry that he had let the fish go, because they had no other food. She told him to go ask the fish for food. So the fisherman went back to the seashore and called to the golden fish. He told the fish that they had no food, and when he got home there was food on the table.

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?
 - A. to give us information
 - B. to teach us something
 - C. to make us laugh

African elephants are some of the smartest animals in the world. They form close friendships with each other and with humans. They communicate with each other, help each other, and play with each other. They feel both happiness and sorrow. They cry when they are sad. If a friend is sad, an elephant will offer gentle touches with its trunk as comfort. If there is danger, elephants warn each other by stamping their feet on the ground. Other elephants can feel the ground movement with their feet even if they are twenty miles away.

3. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?
- A. to give us information
 - B. to teach us something
 - C. to make us laugh

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

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5. What is another example of a story written to teach us something?

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6. What is another example of a story written to make us laugh?

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## Answer Key

1. C

2. B

3. A

4-6 Accept any reasonable responses.