

Author's purpose

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

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.

We sailed along for days and days,
And had the very best of plays—

But Tom fell out and hurt his knee,
So there was no one left but me.

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

"My sons," said the father, "if you are of one mind, and unite to help each other, you will be like the bundle of sticks, and no one will be able to harm you. But if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."

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

Giant sloths the size of elephants once lived in many places on earth, including North America. Today, sloths can be found in the tropical forests of Central and South America. They eat leaves and berries. A sloth can stick its tongue out 12 inches.

3. What is the author's purpose for writing this story? (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