

FOCUS:

Author's Purpose

Identify Theme / Topics

DEFINITION(S):

An **author's purpose** is the reason an author decides to write about a specific topic.

Then, once a topic is selected, the author must decide whether his/her purpose for writing is to inform, persuade, entertain, or explain his/her ideas to the reader.

The **author's theme**, or essential message, of a story is the message that the author wants to tell the reader. Readers can use clues in a story to figure out the theme.

KEY VOCABULARY

- theme: the message of the passage/text
- purpose: why the author wrote the passage/text
- perspective: the author's view/feelings about the passage/text
- inform: presents facts/true information
- entertain: fiction stories
- persuade: to convince/get the reader to do something
- fact: something that can be proven
- opinion: a thought or feeling that someone expresses

QUESTIONS:

- Why did the author begin the story/article with _____?
- Why did the author include the description of _____ in the story/article?
- Why did the author write _____?
- Why did the author write the story _____?
- Why did the author say _____?
- What was the author's purpose in writing this article?
- With which statement would the author MOST likely agree?
- Why did the author begin the story/article with _____?
- Under which heading would you MOST LIKELY find information on materials birds find in the wild?
- Why are there lines and numbers on the picture of the birdhouse?
- The purpose of the illustration on pg. ____ is to show the reader...

CLUE WORDS / PHRASES:

- why did the author suggest
- most likely reason
- to show
- main purpose
- the author says
- topic is covered
- main reason
- best tells what _____ is about