Author's purpose worksheet

5th grade reading · Informational Text · RI.5.8

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 9 questions from our author's purpose practice, easier ones first. Read a question aloud if your child wants that, then check together with the answer key on page 3. Read the passage before the questions that go with it. Circle the letter of the best answer, or the right word where there are no letters.

How to Build a Simple Bird Feeder

A bird feeder brings nature right to your window, and you can build one in about twenty minutes with things you already have at home.

You will need: a clean, empty plastic bottle with its cap, two wooden spoons, a piece of string about two feet long, scissors, and birdseed.

Step 1: Ask an adult to help you cut two small holes near the bottom of the bottle, directly across from each other. Make each hole just big enough to push a spoon handle through.

Step 2: Slide one wooden spoon through both holes so the handle sticks out one side and the bowl of the spoon sticks out the other. The bowl becomes a perch and a tiny tray for seeds.

Step 3: About three inches higher, cut two more holes and add the second spoon, turned so it points the opposite way.

Step 4: Above each spoon bowl, cut a small hole the size of a pea. Seeds will trickle out onto the spoon as birds eat.

Step 5: Fill the bottle with birdseed, screw on the cap, and tie the string around the neck.

Hang your feeder from a branch where you can see it from a window. Within a day or two, you should have visitors. Keep a notebook nearby and write down which kinds of birds you see.

1. **What is the author's main purpose?**

   A. To inform readers how to make a bird feeder
   B. To describe different birds
   C. To persuade readers to protect birds
   D. To entertain with a funny story

2. **Which text feature helps the author achieve this purpose?**

   A. A character's thoughts
   B. Numbered steps
   C. Dialogue
   D. Rhyme

3. **Why does the author list the materials before the steps?**

   A. To make the text longer and harder to read
   B. So readers can gather everything before starting
   C. To show off how many tools they own
   D. Because lists are more fun to read than steps

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5th grade reading · questions, continued

Questions about “How to Build a Simple Bird Feeder”, continued

4. **What is the purpose of the last paragraph?**

   A. To tell readers what to do once the feeder is built
   B. To warn about dangers
   C. To explain how to cut the bottle
   D. To describe the spoons

5. **Which sentence is a clue that this text is persuasive?**

   > Recess is only fifteen minutes at our school. Running around helps me focus in class. We must give students at least thirty minutes of recess every day.

   A. Recess is only fifteen minutes at our school.
   B. We must give students at least thirty minutes of recess every day.
   C. Running around helps me focus in class.
   D. None of them

6. **What is the author's purpose in this book blurb?**

   > You will laugh. You will gasp. You will stay up past your bedtime. The Secret of Thornwood Manor is the mystery everyone will be talking about this summer. Get your copy today!

   A. To explain how to write a mystery
   B. To persuade readers to buy the book
   C. To tell the whole story
   D. To inform readers about manors

7. **Why did the author most likely write this text?**

   > To make a paper airplane, first fold the sheet in half the long way. Unfold it. Then fold the top two corners to the center crease.

   A. To tell a story about flying
   B. To describe the history of airplanes
   C. To explain how to do something
   D. To convince readers to buy paper

8. **True or false: A text can only have one purpose.**

   ○ **True** ○ **False**

9. **This text gives facts AND asks for action. Which is the MAIN purpose?**

   > Monarch butterflies that spend the winter in Mexico now cover more than 80 percent less forest than they did in the 1990s. One big reason is the loss of milkweed, the only plant their caterpillars eat. You can help. Plant milkweed in your yard this spring, and ask your school to plant some too.

   A. To inform, because it has facts
   B. To describe milkweed
   C. To entertain, because butterflies are pretty
   D. To persuade, because the facts build toward asking readers to act

Answer key: Author's purpose

5th grade reading · More practice and a guide for parents at tutorsaurus.com/learn/5th-grade/authors-purpose

1. **A. To inform readers how to make a bird feeder**
   The text gives step-by-step instructions, which is a way of informing or explaining.
2. **B. Numbered steps**
   Numbered steps make instructions clear and easy to follow.
3. **B. So readers can gather everything before starting**
   Knowing what you need first helps you prepare before you begin.
4. **A. To tell readers what to do once the feeder is built**
   It tells where to hang the feeder and suggests keeping a bird notebook.
5. **B. We must give students at least thirty minutes of recess every day.**
   "We must" states an opinion about what should be done, which is the mark of persuasion.
6. **B. To persuade readers to buy the book**
   The exciting language and "Get your copy today!" are meant to sell the book.
7. **C. To explain how to do something**
   Step-by-step directions are written to explain how to do something.
8. **False**
   Many texts mix purposes, like a funny article that also informs. Readers look for the main one.
9. **D. To persuade, because the facts build toward asking readers to act**
   The facts are there to convince you to plant milkweed. The main goal is persuasion.