

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Author's Purpose P.I.E.

By Erin Horner

Normally you can have cherry, apple, or pumpkin pie. Today, however, we're serving up a different kind. Today, you get a slice of author's purpose p.i.e. It might not seem as tasty, but it will help you sink your teeth into great reading material each and every day. I hope you're hungry. Let's dig into an author's purpose p.i.e.



An author always has a purpose when he or she writes a text. Sometimes the author is trying to *persuade* you. He wants you to agree with his opinion. Sometimes he wants to convince you to believe something. The author of an advertisement, commercial, or editorial is probably trying to persuade you to buy or do something.

When an author uses facts to teach you about a real topic, he is trying to *inform* you. The author of a cookbook, textbook, or encyclopedia writes text to inform you. Newspaper reporters who write articles that state information, rather than persuade you, are also writing to inform.

Other authors write to amuse you. They write poems, stories, plays, or comic strips about real or imaginary places, characters, or events. Their purpose is to *entertain* you.

You can often determine an author's purpose by asking yourself questions as you read. Is the author trying to convince you to do something? Does he want to change your opinion? Then his purpose is to persuade. Is the writer of the text giving you a bunch of facts? Is he teaching you something? Then his purpose is to inform. Is the author trying to make you laugh? Is he trying to tell a story or amuse you? Then his purpose is probably to entertain.

Some people say that you can't have your cake and eat it too.

That may be true. You can, however, have a slice of pie and read great texts! The question is: which slice of author's purpose p.i.e. will you get with your reading? Will the author persuade, inform, or entertain you? Dig in, ask great questions, and find out!

Author's Purpose P.I.E.

## Questions

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The author of this text was trying to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. persuade you to eat pie  
B. entertain you by telling jokes  
C. inform you about author's purpose
2. How can you tell if an author's purpose is to persuade you? What question can you ask yourself as you read?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What can the reader infer after reading this text?  
A. The longer a text, the more informative it is.  
B. A "Found Dog" sign would be an example of an informative text.  
C. Authors who write to entertain only write for young children.  
D. All of the above
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Choose the best title:  
A. Why Did the Author Write *That*? Determining the Author's Purpose  
B. Persuade Me to Read Your Book...I Dare You!  
C. Entertaining Is Easy  
D. Ready, Set, Read!