



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Comprehension	Strategy: Determine and Analyze Author's Purpose and Support with Text
Definition	Identify why the author wrote a text, by giving specific examples from the text to support the reader's inference; deepens understanding for how to read and comprehend the text.
Why Children Need This Strategy	Readers infer the meaning of text based on the author's purpose for writing it, which may be to persuade, to inform, or to entertain, to name a few.
Secret to Success	<p>Discovering and identifying the clues to determine what the reader thinks the author's purpose is for writing the selection helps the reader infer the meaning and decide how to approach the text.</p> <p>Authors usually don't tell readers why they wrote their selections; the readers have to figure that out and give evidence from the text to support their thinking.</p>
How We Teach It	<p>We model this strategy, asking ourselves before we start reading a selection some of the questions below. For the next week, each time we pick up any reading material, we ask the students to predict what the author's purpose is. We make an anchor chart with these three author's purposes: Persuade, Inform, and Entertain. We know authors may have other purposes, but we start with these three. Under each heading, we construct a list of descriptors or clues we are discovering for each purpose. Once we have a few descriptors under each heading, we begin by asking students to identify the author's purpose for books they are reading. We constantly ask students to support their beliefs by giving specific examples from the text that give evidence to their conclusions.</p> <p>Language we use:</p> <p>"Do I know anything about this author?"</p> <p>"Is this selection going to teach me something, make me laugh, or try to get me to do something?"</p> <p>"What clues can I find in the text that support what I think?"</p> <p>"Infer why you think the author wrote this text."</p> <p>"How might you approach reading this text, knowing the author's purpose?"</p> <p>"After reading the selection, do you still agree with your inference about why the author wrote this text? If not, what do you think is the author's purpose now? What is your evidence?"</p>
Troubleshooting	The students who need extra support in this area usually need practice predicting author's purpose. Often they don't have enough information to discern the different reasons authors write text and then to support their opinion with details from the selection. We put these students on our conferring calendar and check in daily. We bring a different book to each conference and ask them, "What is the author's purpose for writing this text? What makes you think this?" Going through this process individually will support the students and give them daily practice until we believe they have the skills to identify purpose and why it is important to their reading.