

Author's Purpose

Directions Read the following story. Then answer the questions below.

The driver of the boat started to slow down as he entered the swamp. This made Minh a little nervous. He didn't know what kinds of creatures could be lurking around in the dark water. Minh thought the swamp looked very peculiar. The trees were unlike any he had ever seen. Some had moss hanging from their

branches. It looked like spiderwebs in the light of the moon. All of a sudden, Minh heard a loud splash. He looked around, but saw nothing in the murky water. Then he heard another splash, much closer this time. He shined his flashlight out into the darkness just in time to see the tail of an alligator slip under the water.

Possible answers given for 2–5.

1. What is most likely the author's purpose in writing the story?

The author's purpose is to entertain or scare the reader.

2. Why do you think that is the purpose?

The author uses spooky details about the swamp to make the story scary.

3. The author does not explain what made the splashing noise until the end of the story. Why do you think the author did this?

It makes the passage scary because you don't know what made the sound at first.

4. At what pace did you read the story? Why?

I read it quickly because I wanted to know what would happen next.

5. Do you think the author met his or her purpose? Why or why not?

Yes; The author entertained me with a scary story.



Home Activity Your child analyzed the author's purpose in a short story. Read a short story, newspaper article, or advertisement with your child. Decide together what the author's purpose is in the selection.