

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons the author has for writing.
- An author might have more than one reason for writing. Four common reasons are to persuade, to inform, to express ideas or feelings, and to entertain.

Directions Predict the author's purpose before you read and record it in the diagram. Then read the passage and complete the rest of the diagram.

My First Storm at Sea

The storm was like nothing I had seen before. The waves were the size of buildings, and they came crashing down on our deck as if they were angry. The rain came down in thick sheets. It made it hard to see from one end of the ship to

the other. Luckily, the captain had sailed through many storms like this during his life. Instead of acting out of panic, he acted calmly and with great concentration. Within the hour, he managed to steer us through the worst of the storm. I was never happier to see a storm end in my life!

Possible answers given for 1–3, 5.

Before Reading		After Reading
Prediction of Author's Purpose or Purposes	Reasons for Prediction	Author's Actual Purpose or Purposes
1. to express ideas or feelings; to entertain	The article's title 2. made me think that the article would be entertaining. 3. made me wonder if the author would express that she felt scared.	4. to express ideas or feelings; to entertain

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

I think that the author did meet his or her purpose, because the text was full of suspense and made the reader understand exactly what the author was feeling during and after the storm.



Home Activity Your child used a graphic organizer to predict and confirm the author's purpose in a text. Invite your child to teach you how to look for signs that indicate an author's purpose before reading.