

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is his or her reason for writing.
- Authors can have more than one purpose for writing. The four main reasons include to **persuade**, to **inform**, to **entertain**, and to **express**.

**Directions** Reread the passage below from *The Incredible Sea Journey* by Joe Adair. Then answer the questions below. **Possible responses given.**

“The fastest way to San Francisco is around the bottom of South America, which is called Cape Horn,” Captain Waterman explained.

“It sounds lovely,” I said. “Very musical!”

The captain laughed as I blushed. “I can see why you think so, Inés,” he said in a kindly way. “But the Horn is not a lovely place. It is fierce, cold, and very windy all year round. There is almost always a heavy mist hiding the huge, dangerous rocks.”

He noticed the fear on Ernesto’s face. “But we sea captains know the Horn well,” he said calmly. “After all, we have wonderful new maps to guide us along the best routes. A wise man named Matthew Maury created these maps a few years ago. He collected information from the best sea captains.”

1. What do you think is one purpose the author has for writing this passage?  
How do you know?

**to inform; The author discusses geography and navigation.**

2. What could be the author’s second purpose for writing? Explain your answer.

**to express; The author shows reactions of characters.**

3. If you wanted to build on the author’s purpose to entertain, what else would you write about?

**I would write about Ernesto’s reaction.**

4. Does the author have to try to persuade you? How do you know?

**No, because the author is telling a story.**