

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is his or her reason for writing.
- Authors often have more than one purpose for writing. Four common reasons are: to **persuade**, **inform**, **entertain** or **express** a mood or feeling.

**Directions** Read the paragraph below. Then answer the questions.

**Possible responses given.**

One evening the crew noticed phosphorescent spots beneath the ocean surface. Often, different types of plankton would glow this way, but the spots seemed to cover one huge animal. In the morning, they saw the creature—a 60-foot whale shark! The whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean, and its jaws can grow up to four feet wide. Although the shark swam around the Kon-Tiki raft for several hours, it never attacked the raft or the crew.

Smaller sharks, however, made the water dangerous for swimming. While one sailor checked the bottom of the raft, a shark headed straight toward him! The men on board harpooned the shark to save the sailor from a nasty bite. By the end of the trip, the crew knew sharks so well that they could catch them by their tails!

1. What is one of the author's purposes in writing these paragraphs? How do you know?

**to inform. The author provides details that tell about the crew's interactions with sharks.**

2. What is another purpose that the author has for writing? How do you know?

**to entertain. The author picks a subject of interest—sharks. Then she provides stories about the sharks, not just factual details.**

3. Might the author have a third purpose for writing? Give some examples to justify your answer.

**to express. She does this by creating images that we can picture in our minds.**

4. Does the author have as a purpose to persuade? How do you know?

**No. The author is not inviting us to take action, nor is she giving us her opinion of the Kon-Tiki adventure.**

5. If you wanted to enhance the author's purpose—to entertain—what else might you write about?

**I would tell more shark stories, or would describe a**

**frightening adventure the crew had with the sharks.**