

Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons an author has for writing.
- An author may have one or more reasons for writing. He or she may want *to inform*, *to entertain*, *to persuade*, or *to express* a mood or feeling.

Directions Reread *Star Tracks*. Then answer the questions about author's purpose below.

Possible responses given.

1. Why do you think the author began this reader by describing driving to a soccer match when you don't know the way?

to inform the reader that this book is about the stars and how they help guide us

2. Why did the author include a passage about Columbus?

Columbus was a good example of how early sailors navigated using the equipment and knowledge that was available to them.

3. What does the author want you to know about early explorers and the sky?

that early explorers depended on the sun, the moon, and the stars to guide them

4. On page 10, why did the author want you to think about how the ocean looked at night?

After the sun went down, explorers had only the moon and the stars to guide them.

5. What did the author want you to know about Galileo?

that he saw that the moon was rough and no one believed him; that he discovered Jupiter's moons; that he discovered that Venus traveled around the Sun, not the Earth