

## Skill: Comprehension - Lesson 19 Author's Purpose, Grade 3

**Skill** Comprehension: Author's Purpose - Grade 3

**Resources** Teach Section Paragraphs, Author's Purpose Cards, Author's Purpose Handout and key, "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations", Reteach Passages.

**Note:** *Words in bold are said aloud by the teacher.*

### Teach: Author's Purpose

- We have read so many good books this year. Can you name some of your favorites? Accept responses. We are lucky that so many authors have taken the time to write books for us to enjoy. Have you ever wondered **why** authors' write books? Authors have several reasons, or purposes for writing. Sometimes they want to give you facts or information about a subject. Some authors write stories to entertain you. And some authors may write something to persuade you. So the three main reasons authors write are to inform (show inform card), entertain (show entertain card), or to persuade (show persuade card).
- When an author wants to inform, it means he or she wants to give you facts or information about something. Let's read an example of something that was written to inform.
- Call on student to read the following paragraph:
  - Did you know that crocodiles and alligators are different animals? Many people think they are the same animal. Even though they may look alike, they are two different animals. Both alligators and crocodiles like to live in or near water. Crocodiles like to live in salt water, but alligators usually like fresh water.
- What information or facts did the author give you about alligators and crocodiles? Confirm or correct responses. So by giving you information about alligators and crocodiles, what was the author trying to do? That's right, he or she was trying to inform you. Show inform card.
- Let's read an example of something that was written to entertain.
- Call on student to read the following paragraph:
  - While I was waiting for her to return, I decided to dress up so I could be extra pretty, just like Mama. First I put makeup on my face. I looked pretty good in Mama's bright red lipstick. Next I put on one of Mama's fancy dresses. Then I brushed my hair smooth and put a big bow on top of my head. Wouldn't Mama be surprised to see me!
- Was the author trying to inform you of any new information? No, he or she was trying to write something you might find enjoyable or fun to read. Show entertain card.
- Let's read an example of something that was written to persuade you.
- Call on student to read the following paragraph:
  - Limited time offer! Call now to buy the brand new video game that all the kids want! It is full of puzzles and games to keep you busy for hours. "It's the best game ever!" declare our customers. Be the first kid in your class to buy the hottest new game around! Call 1-800-555-4543 to order yours now! Don't wait; we may be sold out tomorrow.
- What was the author trying to get you to do? He or she was trying to persuade you, or talk you into buying the new video game. Show persuade card. He or she gave you several reasons why you should buy the game. We say he or she was very persuasive.
- Most of the time an author will only have one purpose in mind as he or she is writing, but sometimes, you will find an author is trying to inform you in an entertaining manner.
- If you can understand why an author wrote a piece, you can better understand what you are reading.

### Guided Practice

- Let's practice trying to determine the author's purpose for a variety of writing.
- First, I am just going to name a TYPE of writing, and you will hold up the card that tells what you think the purpose of that type of writing would be.
- For example, if I say, a play, what card would you hold up? You would hold up your entertain card because most of the time plays are written to entertain you.
- Let's try some. Call out different genres of writing and have students hold up their author's purpose card. If there is a disagreement, have students come up with examples to support their opinion.
  - Possible genres:
    - News article: inform
    - Commercial: persuade
    - Short story: entertain
    - Biography: inform
    - Campaign speeches: persuade
    - Poetry: entertain
- Now I am going to assign you one of the three purposes we've learned about today, and you will write a short paragraph to meet your purpose. For example, if I assign you 'inform' you will write a paragraph to inform the reader about something. When everyone is finished, I will collect everyone's paragraphs and read them aloud. You will have the chance to determine the purpose of the paragraph.
- Assign all students a purpose and allow time for students to write to meet their purpose. When students are finished, collect all paragraphs and read/or have a student read a paragraph. Students will hold up the author's purpose card they think fits the paragraph. To add a little competition, you can keep score on how many paragraphs the majority gets right.

### Monitor Progress through Independent Practice

- Let's see how much you have learned about determining an author's purpose. Distribute Author's Purpose Handout and "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations." There are several questions about author's purpose on this handout. I want you to answer the questions on your own. In Part 1 you are making predictions about what you think the author's purpose would be. In Part 2 you will be asked to read selections from "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations" to help you answer some of the questions.
- Allow time for students to read and answer questions.

### Reteach (for students requiring more instruction and practice)

*Note: Provide explicit instruction with modeling and guided practice in small groups. It is important to speak (enunciate) clearly.*

- Read aloud, or have students read the following selections and model the thought process involved in determining author's purpose.
  - Did you know that many of the things we use in our homes come from rainforests? We eat some foods from the rainforest and even some of the medicines we take are made with ingredients only found in the rainforest. (inform)
  - I would like you to stop supporting companies that destroy the rainforests to make money. We need rainforests. They are home to over 30 million species of plants and animals, and the oxygen that the trees give off helps to keep our air clean. If we destroy the rainforests, where will these animals live? What will happen to our air? (persuade)
  - SSSSSSSure thing. I live in the canopy, sssssso there are lotsssss and lotsssss of branchessssss and leavessssss all around me. I like to live here because I can sssssssslither in and out of the tangle of branchessssss to find food. (entertain and inform)

## Teach Section Paragraphs

1. Did you know that crocodiles and alligators are different animals? Many people think they are the same animal. Even though they may look alike, they are two different animals. Both alligators and crocodiles like to live in or near water. Crocodiles like to live in salt water, but alligators usually like fresh water.
2. While I was waiting for her to return, I decided to dress up so I could be extra pretty, just like Mama. First I put makeup on my face. I looked pretty good in Mama's bright red lipstick. Next I put on one of Mama's fancy dresses. Then I brushed my hair smooth and put a big bow on top of my head. Wouldn't Mama be surprised to see me!
3. Limited time offer! Call now to buy the brand new video game that all the kids want! It is full of puzzles and games to keep you busy for hours. "It's the best game ever!" declare our customers. Be the first kid in your class to buy the hottest new game around! Call 1-800-555-4543 to order yours now! Don't wait; we may be sold out tomorrow.

## Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations

Mrs. Stanton's third grade class has been studying the rainforest. Her students were very excited about what they have learned and wanted to share their information with the whole school. They decided they would work in small groups to present information about the rainforest in several different ways. One group decided to write newspaper articles, one group decided to write letters, and one group wrote a short skit. They posted the newspaper articles around the school, read the letters to other third grade classes, and performed the skit during lunch for each grade. Here is one of the newspaper articles, two of the letters, and the skit that Mrs. Stanton's class wrote.

# The Stanton Star

Rainforests are so amazing and beautiful. A rainforest is a tall, dense jungle that gets a lot of rain every year.

Although they cover only a small part of

the Earth's surface, rainforests are home to more than half of the world's plant and animal species. Scientists think that 30 million types of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.

Rainforests have four layers: the emergent layer, the canopy, the understory, and the forest floor. The emergent layer is the top of the rainforest. This layer is made of the tops of the trees, and there is a lot of sunlight. Eagles, monkeys, and bats live in the emergent layer. The next layer is the canopy. The canopy is the main layer of the rainforest and home to many animals such as snakes and birds. The canopy is filled with tree limbs and leaves. The third layer is the understory. Little sunlight reaches the understory, so plants can't grow very tall here. Some small animals and frogs like to live in the understory. The last layer is the forest floor. It is very dark here, so very few plants can grow on the forest floor.

Did you know that many of the things we use in our homes come from rainforests? We eat some foods from the rainforest and even some of the medicines we take are made with ingredients only found in the rainforest. Look at this list and see if you have any items in your house that may have come from, or have ingredients that came from the rainforest.

- chocolate
- sugar
- cinnamon
- rubber for balloons
- medicine for asthma
- pineapples
- rubber for tires
- insecticide
- rope
- coffee
- nuts
- wood for furniture
- makeup

Juan Galvan  
22 Gardenia Road  
Liberty, TX 76523

President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Did you know that the rainforests are in danger? Large corporations are cutting down the rainforests to use the land to grow crops or drill for oil. Our country buys products from these companies. Logging companies build roads into rainforests and then cut down many trees in the rainforest.

I would like you to stop supporting companies that destroy the rainforests to make money. We need rainforests. They are home to over 30 million species of plants and animals, and the oxygen that the trees give off helps to keep our air clean. If we destroy the rainforests, where will these animals live? What will happen to our air?

Sincerely,  
Juan Galvan

April 3, 2007

Dear Parkview Elementary Students, Parents, and Teachers,

Did you ride a bike, bus or car to school today? If you did, you may have been riding on rubber tires made from rubber from a rainforest. There are many things we use in our lives that can come from the rainforest such as chocolate, many different types of fruit, wooden furniture, and even medicine.

Many companies are cutting down rainforests to make room for their businesses. If they keep cutting down the rainforests, where will we get the things we use in our daily lives? Also, if they keep cutting down the rainforests, many animals will die because they will have no place to live.

I encourage you to write letters to big companies that are destroying the rainforests. If enough people write to them, they may change their minds and find other places for their business.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Alexander



## Rainforest Skit

**Jack:** Welcome to my home. My name is Jack. I am a jaguar, and I live here, in the African rainforest. Have you ever been to a rainforest? You haven't? I don't understand why. It is so beautiful here I thought the rainforest would be the first choice for your vacation. Well, since you've never been to a rainforest before, I guess it's up to me to show you around. I'll take you through all four parts of a rainforest where you can meet some of my friends that live there and they can tell you all sorts of great things about the rainforest. Put on your raincoat. You never know when it might start raining again! Let's go. We'll start at the top with my friend Eddie the Eagle. Eddie, these are my new friends. They've never been to a rainforest, and I promised them I'd take them on a tour to meet some of my friends. Would you like to tell them about yourself and where you live?

**Eddie:** No problem! My name is Eddie and I'm an eagle. I live in the emergent layer of this African rainforest. I like it up here because there is plenty of sunlight. I like to be able to fly around, and this is the only layer of the rainforest where I can do that. Did you know that most rainforests are found around the equator of the Earth? There are rainforests in South America, Central America, Africa, Southeast Asia and even Australia. That means there's a rainforest on four of the seven continents! Oh, gotta fly now! I think I see my lunch over there! Later!

**Jack:** Thanks, Eddie! All right now, let's see who we run into next. Sorry about all these branches and leaves. We can't avoid them though, because we're entering the canopy now. Oh look, there's my friend Sydney the Snake. Hey Sydney!

**Sydney:** SSSSSSSalutations, my ssssssssssssssweet friend. To what do I owe this ssssssurprise?

**Jack:** Well SSSSSSSSyd, I mean Sydney, I am taking my new friends here on a tour of the rainforest. Would you like to tell them about where you live?

**Sydney:** SSSSSSSSure thing. I live in the canopy, sssssso there are lotssssss and lotssssss of branchessssss and leavessssss all around me. I like to live here because I can sssssssssslither in and out of the tangle of branchessssss to find food. Or I can just find a great limb to hang out on all day. Did you know that rainforests can get over 80 inchessssssss of rain each year? It'sssssss true. I must sssssssslither on now. Ssssssee you later!



**Jack:** Thanks, Sydney. I didn't realize how much rain we got here in the rainforest. 80 inches is over six feet of rain each year. Wow! Let's get back to our tour. I think I see Betty Beetle. Hello Betty!

**Betty:** Hi, Jack. Who is that with you?

**Jack:** These are my new friends. I'm giving them a tour of the rainforest. Would you like to tell them about where you live?

**Betty:** I'd be delighted. I live in the understory, that's the part of the rainforest under the leaves of the trees and above the ground. Here you will find many different types of insects, spiders, snakes, and some small animals like the kinkajou. I like it here because it is cool and dark. Did you know the rainforest is a comfortable temperature year round? It never freezes or gets very hot here. The average temperature is around 75 degrees. This is a mighty nice place to live! In fact, I'm going to go find a nice dark leaf to rest under for a while. Bye-bye.

**Jack:** Thank you, Betty. Well friends, we're at the final stop in our tour. This is the forest floor and this is where I live. It is easy for me to walk around down here because there aren't a lot of small plants to trip me up. Not very much sunlight makes it down here, so plants can't grow very well. I like to live here because I'm too big to live up in the trees. Most larger animals, like gorillas and anteaters and even people, live on the forest floor. The people that live near rainforests get most of the things they need to live from the rainforest. I think some of the things you have in your home came from the rainforest too. Chocolate, nuts, wood, and rubber are often taken from rainforests. Would you like to live here with me? No, you'd prefer to just visit? Oh well, that's OK. I'm sure your home is beautiful too. Thanks for coming on the tour with me today, and come back and visit soon!



## Reteach Passages

1. Did you know that many of the things we use in our homes come from rainforests? We eat some foods from the rainforest and even some of the medicines we take are made with ingredients only found in the rainforest.
2. I would like you to stop supporting companies that destroy the rainforests to make money. We need rainforests. They are home to over 30 million species of plants and animals, and the oxygen that the trees give off helps to keep our air clean. If we destroy the rainforests, where will these animals live? What will happen to our air?
3. SSSSSSSSure thing. I live in the canopy, sssssso there are lotssssss and lotssssss of branchessssss and leavessssss all around me. I like to live here because I can sssssssssslither in and out of the tangle of branchessssssss to find food.



## Author's Purpose Handout

### Part 1

Answer the first three questions before you read anything from "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations."

1. "The Stanton Star" is a newsletter with two articles about the rainforest. What do you predict the author's purpose will be? (Circle one)

persuade

inform

entertain

2. In "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations" there are two letters about the rainforest. What do you predict the author's purpose will be? (Circle one)

persuade

inform

entertain

3. In "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations" there is a skit about the rainforest. What do you predict the author's purpose will be? (Circle one)

persuade

inform

entertain

### Part 2

Choose to read two of the three selections from "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations." You can choose from the newsletter, the letters, or the skit. After you have read two of the three selections, answer the following questions.

4. I chose to read \_\_\_\_\_ and now I know the  
title of one selection

author's purpose is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. I also chose to read \_\_\_\_\_ and now I know the  
title of second selection

author's purpose is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Author's Purpose Handout (key)

**Part 1** \*\*\*Answers may vary; students are making predictions.

Answer the first three questions before you read anything from "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations."

1. "The Stanton Star" is a newsletter with two articles about the rainforest. What do you predict the author's purpose will be? (Circle one)

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3. In "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations" there is a skit about the rainforest. What do you predict the author's purpose will be? (Circle one)

persuade

inform

entertain

**Part 2** \*\*\*Answers may vary; accept or correct responses.

Choose to read two of the three selections from "Mrs. Stanton's Third Grade Rainforest Presentations." You can choose from the newsletter, the letters, or the skit. After you have read two of the three selections, answer the following questions.

4. I chose to read \_\_\_\_\_ and now I know the  
title of one selection

author's purpose is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. I also chose to read \_\_\_\_\_ and now I know the  
title of second selection

author's purpose is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Author's Purpose Cards

# Inform



# Entertain



# Persuade

