

Objective: Students will practice determining an author's purpose

Checking for Understanding

Review by having the students tell the steps for understanding an author's point of view.

1. Read the passage carefully.
2. Consider whether or not the author's information is accurate about the topic.
3. Decide if the text informs, persuades, entertains, or explains the information, or if it is presented from a character's point of view.
4. Evaluate whether the author has selected the best way to present and write about his/her topic.

"Scrambled, Not Fried"

Teacher note: In this activity, students will examine passages to determine the author's purpose. This activity uses Level 4 of Bloom's Taxonomy, Analysis.

Group size: whole class divided into four groups

Materials: passage cards, pages 10-14, tape or sticky putty to hold cards on the board, bulletin board paper

Before class: Make a copy of the passage cards, pages 10-14 and cut them apart. Make individual columns on the board for persuade, entertain, inform, and explain. Tape or stick the passage cards on the board, (away from individual category columns) in a random order, and cover them with a large piece of bulletin board paper.

Directions:

- Have the class stand in 4 lines and give each line a category. (One line will be inform, one will be persuade, etc.)
- Remove the bulletin board paper from the board. The first person from each team will go to the board and find a passage that matches their team's category.
- The students only have 30 seconds to find a passage.
- Once the student finds a suitable passage, he/she places it under his/her team's category column. He/she then moves to the back of the line.
- When 30 seconds are up, any student still remaining at the board must move to the back of the line. The next group of students goes to the board, when the teacher says "go" and repeats the process of choosing a passage that fits his/her team's category.
- When all students have played and no cards are left, the teacher checks the passages in each column. She gives the teams 1 point for every passage that is correct. If the teacher finds an incorrect passage, the team can STILL win a point by deciding the correct category for the passage. The team whose category that piece belongs in can also win a point by explaining WHY that passage fits their category. (For example, if the "Explain" category has a passage in it that doesn't belong, they may read it again and decide that it belongs in the "Persuade" column. The "Explain" team wins a point. The "Persuade" team can then also win a point by stating WHY that passage belongs in their column.)

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- If a student finds a "Character's Point of View" passage, he/she can give it to the teacher and earn 2 extra points for his/her team.
- In the end, the team with the most points wins.
- You can play more than one round of this game if you wish. After finishing one round, give the teams different categories. Then have them play again.
- Passages 4 and 14—Helm, Charles, *Daniel's Dinosaurs: A True Story of Discovery*, Maple Tree Press, Inc., Toronto, 2004, pgs. 4 and 21
- Passages 5 and 22—L'Engle, Madeleine, *A Wrinkle in Time*, Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, New York, NY, 1962, pgs. 1 and 95
- Passages 16 and 30—Rowling, J.K., *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, Scholastic Inc., New York, NY, 1999, pgs. 12 and 212
- Passage 26—A poem. Korman, Bernice and Gordon, *The D- Poems of Jeremy Bloom*, Scholastic Inc., New York, NY, 1992, pg. 31
- Passage 12—Rawls, Wilson, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Bantam Books, Doubleday, New York, NY, 1961, pg. 17



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"Scrambled, Not Fried" Passages

1. Dinosaurs first appeared on the earth many millions of years ago. They had long legs, and some were fast runners. These fast runners were often meat eaters with sharp claws. One meat eater was the Herrerasaurus. In the beginning, these meat-eating creatures probably ate lizard-like creatures, but often they ate the slower moving plant-eating dinosaurs as well.

2. My favorite sandwich is a toasted cheese sandwich. To make it, you need two pieces of bread, two slices of American cheese, butter, and a butter knife. You also need a toaster oven for this dish! First, spread the butter onto one side of each piece of bread. Next, unwrap the cheese and lay a slice on each piece of bread. Place them in the toaster oven. Use the "toast" setting. When the toast is done, carefully remove it from the oven, place the two pieces of bread together and enjoy!

3. When fossils are found, the process of removing them and taking care of them is important. First, bulldozers are used to uncover large pieces of rock and soil. The bones are more visible. Workers use hammers, chisels and other small tools to remove the bones. However, before the bones are even removed, they are numbered, measured, and photographed. This is done to make sure the bones can be put back together later on. Next, if workers find a bone that is crumbling, it is sprayed with foam. Sometimes they are strapped into bandages soaked with plaster. Finally, once the bones are found and carefully removed, they are put into padded crates. Then, they are taken to the laboratory.

4. Daniel, his mom, his dad, and his younger sister, Carina, lived in a faraway town called Tumbler Ridge in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

In the summer they would go exploring together. They looked for new caves and waterfalls and hiked to the tops of mountains.

In the winter, they would go cross-country skiing together up frozen creeks and through beautiful canyons. One day they skied to a spot where they found an old abandoned wooden cabin. Daniel said "Wouldn't it be fun to see what this place looks like in the summer?"

5. It was a dark and stormy night.

In her attic bedroom, Margaret Murry was wrapped in an old patchwork quilt. She sat on the foot of her bed and watched the trees tossing in the wind. Behind the trees clouds raced frantically across the sky. Every few moments the moon ripped through them, creating ghost-like shadows that raced along the ground.

6. Is it possible to put a tissue in water without getting it wet? You bet! To prove it, you're going to need a bowl of water, a small glass and a tissue. First, ball up the tissue and push it into the glass. Next, turn the glass upside down and place it under the water in the bowl. Finally, you should notice that no water will enter the glass and the tissue stays dry! Water can't enter the glass because the glass is full of air. Air cannot escape the glass because it is lighter than water. And guess what? The tissue stays dry!

Objective: Students will understand and identify an author's purpose for writing

"Scrambled, Not Fried" Passages

7. Robert Toombs was a senator from Georgia. He was also a farmer and lawyer. He studied law at the University of Virginia. He joined the army in July of 1861, but resigned in 1863. He returned to his home in Washington, Georgia and died in 1885.

8. Math is the most important subject to excel in. You will need math for many things in your life. Math can help you pay bills and buy groceries. Math can also help you figure out how much gas it will take to get from one place to another. Last, math can help you figure out if that giant flat screen TV will really fit in your living room. Math is important. I have provided you with three reasons to study math and succeed in it. I hope these reasons will convince you to do your best.

9. Dear Dr. Jones:

I have heard that you are planning a trip to Africa to dig for dinosaur bones. I am writing this letter to ask you to take me with you. I am a strong person and can handle the heat in the desert. Currently, I am studying dinosaurs at the University of Georgia and would like to go with you to learn even more. I know how to find and take care of fossils, and am willing to pay for my plane ticket. I hope this convinces you to allow me to join your trip.

Sincerely,

Jane Smith

10. Did you know that the largest ice cream sundae ever made weighed 54,914 pounds? It was made by Palm Dairies in Alberta, Canada on July 24, 1988. It had 44,689 pounds of ice cream, 9,688 pounds of syrup, and 537 pounds of topping! Yummy!

11. Boy, after four days of riding on this trailer, I am ready to be in a nice parking space in the shade. I don't know what happened to my driver. She left one day and never came back. I sat alone in the driveway outside our house for hours. It got dark and rained, and she never came to check on me. Then, suddenly, a man shows up with a big trailer and my key. He drives me up onto the top level of this thing with all these other cars, and we've been on the road ever since. Yesterday, when that other truck hit us, I thought we were all goners. Thankfully we weren't hurt. Hey, why are we stopping? That looks like...could it be? My owner! She's here! She didn't leave me after all! I knew I was her favorite car.

12. The dog wanting disease never did leave me altogether. With the new work I was doing, helping Papa, it just kind of burned itself down and left a big sore on my heart. Every time I'd see a coon track down in our fields, or along the riverbanks, the old sore would get all festered up and start hurting again.

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13. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is the best book there is! This book has suspense, sadness, humor, action, everything you could want! You should read this book to find out about the mysterious prophecy, or to discover what really happened to Neville's parents. Looking for romance? Look no further, there is even some of that in the latest *Potter* book. If you haven't read it yet, what are you waiting for? Get out there and get your copy today!

14. Rich had showed Daniel how to make...molds of the best footprints...

Daniel would have to watch TV for the weather forecast, as he could only start making a mold when the weather was going to be good for a few days. Then for three days in a row Daniel would go to a footprint and paint a layer of latex rubber onto it.

On the fourth day he would slowly peel back the latex. If he had done a good job, a perfect copy of the footprint would come off, without damaging the original footprint at all. Later, plaster casts could be made from these.

15. Did you know that for thousands of years nobody wrote anything down? Instead, people passed information and stories along by talking to one another. The first type of writing consisted only of pictures and shapes. In fact, the Ancient Egyptians used picture writing. Each little picture stood for a word or a sound.

16. Harry managed not to shout out, but it was a close thing. The little creature on the bed had large, bat-like ears and bulging green eyes the size of tennis balls. Harry knew instantly that this was what had been watching him out of the garden hedge that morning.

17. WAKE UP!!!!!!!!!!!! WAKE UP, IT'S MORNING! IT'S ME, YOUR ALARM CLOCK! HELLO? You're going to be late for school if you don't get up! Come on, it's a sunny day, it's warm, it's going to be a great day! No, don't, no, not the snooze button!

18. Mom, I really think I should be able to try out for the swim team this year. Their meets and practices are in the mornings, so I would still be able to do my homework and chores after school. It would be good exercise for me, and I would also get to meet new people. Mom, I know I am a good swimmer, and I would like to show others that as well. If you give me the chance to try, I promise I'll keep my grades up. Love, Rachel.

19. A tin can telephone really can work! All you need are two thin tin cans, a hammer, a nail, two matchsticks and some string. Ask an adult to use the hammer and nail to make a hole in the bottom of each can. Next, draw the string through the holes in the cans and tie each end to a matchstick. Then, ask someone else to hold one can while you hold the other. You should draw the string really tightly between you. Finally, speak quietly into the can to send messages to your friend. If the string is held tight enough, the vibrations will carry well, and you won't have to shout!

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20. Did you know it doesn't have to rain for there to be a rainbow? Rainbows are made when beams of sunlight are bent just a little by droplets of water. So, light can be bent by droplets from fog or ocean spray as well as rain!

21. Ow! Ow! Being a keyboard is no fun. All day long someone is banging the "k" or the "e" or some other key on me. It's very painful. The only thing I like about my job is that I produce some pretty cool things. Without me, it would be harder for people to write novels or send e-mails to their friends. Even if it is painful, I guess in the end, my job is worth it.

22. Below them the town was laid out in harsh angular patterns. The houses in the outskirts were all exactly alike, small square boxes painted gray. Each had a small, rectangular plot of lawn in front, with a straight line of dull-looking flowers edging the path to the door. Meg had a feeling that if she could count the flowers there would be exactly the same number for each house.

23. Mom, I really think we should stay here in Tumbler Ridge and not move away. Daniel and I are making so many discoveries with the dinosaurs. I don't want to miss out on any of that. If we move, I won't know anyone, and my friends will still be here. How can I learn more about the dinosaurs if we are far away from them? I hope I can convince you to let us stay. I don't want to move.

24. Dad, I set up an e-mail account for you so that we can talk everyday on-line. Here's how you can access it. First, double click on the blue "E" (internet explorer) on your computer. This will get you onto the internet. The first page you will see is your home page. Here, about half way down the page, you will see, written in blue, "check your mail." Double click on this. Now, it will ask you for your username and password. I have written these below for you. Type these in. Finally, click "submit," and it will take you to your mail page. The "inbox" is where your new messages will be. Enjoy!

25. Did you know that Europe is the second-smallest continent? Even though it is small, 700 million people live there! There are oceans to the north, south and west of Europe, and it borders Asia to the east. In Europe there are over 40 countries including Spain, Italy and Germany. Around Europe you can see forests and lakes, tall mountains, and even meadows and hills overlooking oceans.

26. A poem.
Rhyme salad,
Chopped by the word processor,
Garnished with pictures,
Sprinkled with adjectives,
Tossed by a poet-chef.
Lettuce, onions, tomatoes, images

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27. Writing is an important part of everyday life. One must learn to write well in order to succeed. In college, one has to write essays and answer test questions with complete paragraphs. In the working world, one has to be able to write neatly to complete a job application. One also has to be able to spell and might have to write a paragraph or two about him/herself. Writing will always be a part of every person's life. It is important to practice for school and for life in the work force.

28. Want to recycle leftover food scraps? You can by creating a worm box! Once you have a plastic tub, drill lots of small holes in the bottom of it. Put a tray underneath to keep the dirt from going everywhere. You also need newspaper, two handfuls of soil, red worms from a bait shop, and food scraps from the kitchen. Tear the newspaper into strips and soak them until they're soggy. Put the shredded newspaper into the tub. Next, add soil and mix everything together. Add the worms! (One pound should do it.) Next, cut out a rectangle slightly smaller than the tub from a garbage bag. This is the cover for the tub. The worms need air, so make sure the plastic doesn't completely cover the box. Finally, you can feed your worms! Lift the top, add the scraps (a few handfuls), cover with newspaper, and put the top back on.

29. Glamis Castle, the birthplace of Princess Margaret, is believed to be the most haunted royal building in Scotland. Said to be home to monsters, ghosts and even a vampire, this castle is definitely a spooky place!

30. No one...could fail to enjoy Christmas dinner at Hogwarts.

The Great Hall looked magnificent. Not only were there a dozen frost-covered Christmas trees and thick streamers of holly and mistletoe crisscrossing the ceiling, but enchanted snow was falling, warm and dry, from the ceiling.

31. jewel123: come 2 the mall w/ me

katie853: but it's Saturday and I have to finish my homework.

jewel123: There's a sale at our favorite store!

katie853: can we get fudge from the candy store?

jewel123: if u come 2 the mall w/ me, I promise I'll buy you all the fudge you want!

Teacher note: You can add even more reinforcement by going over all the passages with your students after the game. Together they can practice explaining why each passage belonged in a certain column.