

# Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons for writing. An author may write to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express ideas and feelings.
- The kinds of ideas in the text, and the way the author organizes and states these ideas, can help you determine the purpose.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then complete the diagram below by telling the ideas of the text, how they are organized, and the author's purpose.

<p><b>O</b>nce upon a time, in a small, southwestern town, lived a wise jackrabbit. The jackrabbit gave advice to the people of the town. He told them where to dig for water and how to plant their crops.</p> <p>One day, a boy named Jorge asked the jackrabbit what he should get his sister for her birthday. The jackrabbit said, "Some long-stemmed grass from the fields</p>	<p>far, far away."</p> <p>Jorge collected the grass and gave it to his sister. She thought it was the worst gift she had ever received.</p> <p>The next day, Jorge yelled at the jackrabbit for giving bad advice. The jackrabbit replied, "I said I give advice. I never said it was <i>good</i> advice."</p>
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**Examples of Ideas**

1. A jackrabbit \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Jorge accepts \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Content of Text**

3. The sister's response is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The jackrabbit's response is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Author's Purpose**

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Home Activity** Your child answered questions to identify the author's purpose. Read an article or short story with your child. Ask him or her to guess the author's purpose before reading, based on any titles or headings. During and after reading, have your child determine the author's purpose based on the ideas and organization of the text.

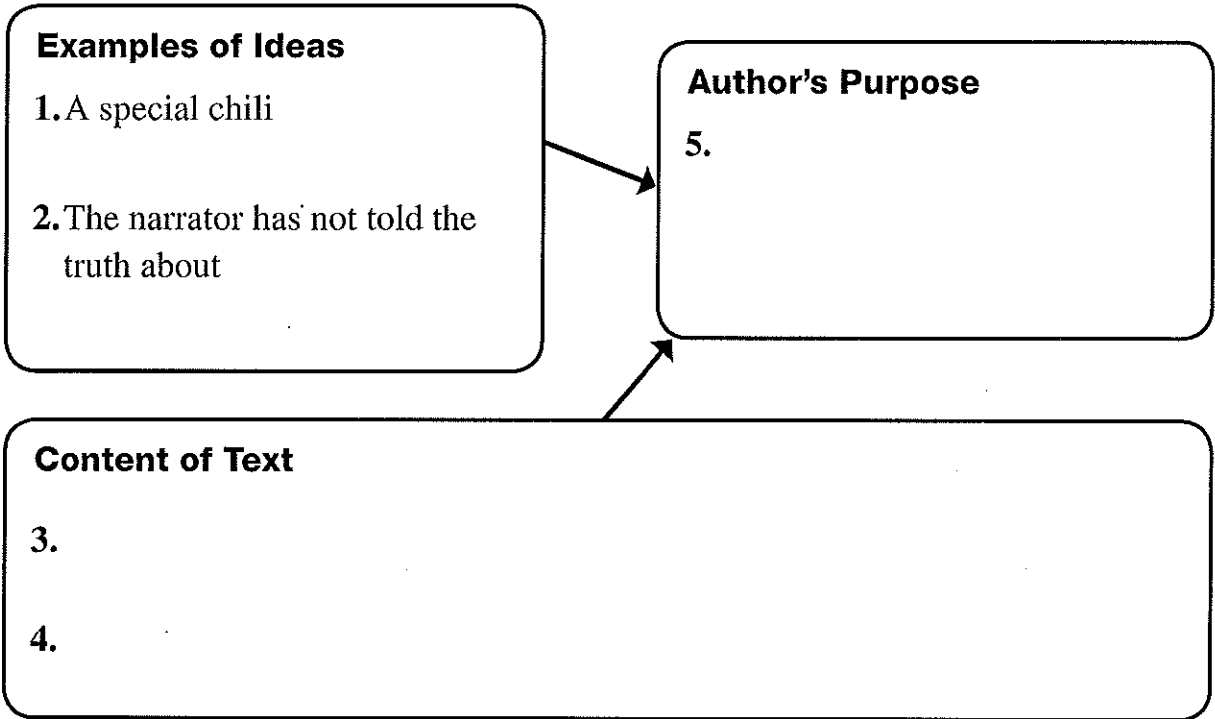
Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions** Read the following passage. Then complete the diagram below.

<p><b>W</b>hen I smelled chili cooking in the kitchen, I knew I was in trouble. This wasn't just ordinary chili. This was "fibber's chili," which was invented by my great-aunt. She fed this chili to anyone she thought had told a fib or a lie. "One bite," she used to say, "and they can't help but tell you the whole truth." I knew my mom was making it for me</p>	<p>now. Why? Yesterday I kicked a soccer ball into a window, and it broke. Of course, then I told my mother that the window smashed when a bird flew into it. I suppose now I could tell her that I'm too sick to eat. But then she'd serve me fibber's chili a second time! I've got to get up my courage and tell the truth.</p>
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**Home Activity** Your child identified the author's purpose in a text. Have your child choose something to write in a letter to a friend or relative. What would your child's purpose be, given the subject matter, and how could information be presented to serve that purpose? Then have your child write the letter.

