

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons the author has for writing.
- An author may write to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express himself or herself.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

**T**om stood outside the school office, not knowing what to do. He should have been excited about the class pizza party. He loved pizza. But he wasn't excited. Tom's class won the pizza party when three of his classmates entered the best guess for the number of marbles it took to fill up a jar. The problem was, Tom knew that his classmates had cheated. They had found the principal's notes,

which told exactly how many marbles had been used, and had copied the number down. A group of third-graders had come within fifteen marbles all by themselves, just by estimating. Even though he loved pizza, Tom didn't think it was fair to enjoy the party that the third-graders had earned. If he did nothing, Tom would feel dishonest. He took a deep breath, and went into the office to talk to the principal.

1. Why do you think the author wrote this passage?

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2. Do you think the author met his or her purpose for writing? Why or why not?

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3. Why do you think the author wrote the passage from Tom's point of view?

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4. Why does the author tell a story instead of simply writing an essay about why cheating is wrong?

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5. Did you need to change your normal reading pace to understand it? Why or why not?

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**Home Activity** Your child analyzed the author's purpose in a passage, and monitored his or her understanding of it. Read a persuasive piece such as a newspaper editorial with your child and discuss how the author persuades the reader.