Author’s Purpose

- The author’s purpose is the main reason an author writes a selection. An author may write to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express ideas or feelings.
- Sometimes an author may write with more than one purpose in mind.
- What the author says and the details given help you figure out the author’s purpose.

Directions Read the following passage and fill in the diagram below.

Jenna dreamed of being an astronaut. She read books about astronauts, she watched documentaries on TV about space exploration, and she even insisted her parents take her on vacation to the NASA launch site in Florida. At school, Jenna’s science projects always had something to do with the planets or space or famous astronauts. It seemed she knew more about the space shuttle than some of her teachers did. Although she had only been in an airplane once, she spent the whole three-hour flight staring out the window at the clouds and the vast sky. Jenna wasn’t sure how long it would take, but she knew one day she would see the Earth from as far away as the moon.

| AUTHOR’S PURPOSE | 1. |
| DETAIL | What is one example of Jenna’s interest in astronauts? | 2. |
| DETAIL | What is another example of Jenna’s interest in astronauts? | 3. |

4. Does the author meet his or her purpose successfully? Why do you feel this way?

5. If you did not understand the passage, what could you do to help yourself understand?

Home Activity Your child answered questions about an author’s purpose in a fictional passage. Read a favorite book and have your child describe the author’s purpose for writing.

Comprehension