

Travel Read - Author's Purpose

Directions:

1. Print passages on card stock.
2. Cut out each passage and if possible, laminate the cards.
3. Place each passage on a student desk.
4. Give students a copy of the answer sheet.
5. Have them float around the room, reading the passage and answering the question.
6. Allow students to go in any order they want.

Passages taken from:

Short Reading Passages & Graphic Organizers to Build Comprehension
by Linda Ward Beech

&

Strategies for Comprehension: Building Active Readers
by Kathryn Wheeler

1 - Get the Point

When you're scribbling a note with a pencil, do you ever wonder what this handy tool is made from? To get right to the point, a pencil is made of a number of materials. The inside is made of graphite that is made stronger with clay. Its wooden outside comes from cedar trees. The yellow paint on the wood is made from minerals, while the metal band at one end is aluminum. Should you make a mistake while writing, use the eraser. Its main materials are soybean oil and latex.

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Inform readers about how clay can be used to write with.
- b) Persuade readers that the best tool to use for writing is a pencil.
- c) Inform readers of what a pencil is made out of.
- d) Entertain readers with a story about a pencil.

4 - Short For

You know that Mr. is short for mister, but do you know what CEO means? It stands for chief executive officer. Not all abbreviations stand for people. For example, Pk. means park, Rd. stands for road, and Mt. represents mountain. The abbreviation Dr. stands for two different words-doctor and drive. Units of measure also have abbreviations. Teaspoon is often shortened to tsp. and gal. stands for gallon.

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Entertain the reader with a story about a person trying to become CEO.
- b) Inform the reader that abbreviations are used for a variety of words.
- c) Entertain the reader with a funny story about a teaspoon at a park.
- d) Inform the reader that Mr. is short for Mister.

#5 - Eating in Egypt

Suppose you lived thousands of years ago in Ancient Egypt. What would you have eaten? Like all Ancient Egyptians, you would eat bread with every meal. Garlic bread, raisin bread, and nutbread were three favorites. Egyptians also ate a lot of fruit including figs, dates, and pomegranates. Vegetables were also part of their diet. Lettuce, beans, onions, cucumbers, and leeks were all popular. How do you think you'd like your Egyptian meal?

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) To persuade readers that Egypt is the best place for a vacation.
- b) To Inform readers about what Ancient Egyptians would have eaten.
- c) Persuade readers that Ancient Egyptians ate better than anyone else in the world.
- d) Entertain readers with a story about dinner time in Ancient Egypt.

8 - Colorful Events

History is full of colorful events. Television first appeared in living color in 1953. People began taking color photographs in 1935. Colorful music history was made in 1970 when a frog puppet named Kermit croaked out the song "Bein' Green." The year 1968 marked a milestone in another color with the release of the movie *The Yellow Submarine* starring the Beatles. Traffic signals appeared in 1920. Another colorful event occurred in 1927 when bathtubs and sinks—once only available in white—were sold in tones such as Spring Green, Autumn Brown, and Horizon Blue for the first time.

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Persuade readers to think that life would be terrible without color.
- b) Inform readers about the importance of traffic signals being in color.
- c) Inform the readers about a variety of colorful events in history.
- d) Entertain the readers with fun colorful events in history.

13 - Many Milestones

People have been driving cars for more than a century. If you traveled back in time, you'd find some interesting auto facts along the way. In 1901, car drivers in New York City had to have their initials on their cars. The first license plates were issued two years later in Massachusetts. Cars got electric headlights in 1912, and the first white sidewall tires appeared in 1928. The first auto theft was reported in St. Louis in 1905. In 1911, the first 500-mile race took place in Indianapolis. Parking meters first appeared in 1935 in Oklahoma City.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Inform the reader that owners of cars in New York City had to have their initials on the car.
- b) Entertain the reader with fun facts about cars.
- c) Persuade the reader that cars are dangerous and are often broken into.
- d) Inform the reader about interesting facts related to the history of cars.

17 - Presidential Passages

George Washington, the first President of the United States, took office in 1789. The first president to live in the White House, however, was John Adams. He and his wife Abigail moved there in 1800. Since then, technology has changed the lives of presidents. In 1833, Andrew Jackson was the first president to ride on a train. James Polk was the first president to be photographed in 1849. Benjamin Harrison was the first president to have electricity in the White House in 1891. Presidential firsts also relate to advances in communications. In 1993, William Clinton was the first president to have e-mail in the White House. In 1955, Dwight Eisenhower was the first president to appear on color TV. The first president to make a radio broadcast from the White House was Calvin Coolidge in 1925.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Persuade the reader that U.S. Presidents were special people.
- b) Inform the reader about different presidential firsts.
- c) Persuade the reader that Presidents get to do a lot of fun things.
- d) Inform the reader about Dwight D. Eisenhower and how he was the first president to appear on TV.

21 - The Real McCoy

In 1872, Elijah McCoy, an engineer from Canada, invented a way to keep the moving parts of train cars constantly oiled. As a result, trains did not have to stop every few miles for oiling. Soon, no machine was considered any good unless it had one of McCoy's oil cups. To be sure they got a good train, engineers began saying they wanted "the real McCoy." In time, the phrase came to mean "the real thing."

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Entertain the reader with a story about Elijah McCoy.
- b) Inform the reader about how Elijah McCoy grew up in Canada.
- c) Inform the reader about how Elijah McCoy made trains better by creating oil cups.
- d) Persuade the reader that Elijah McCoy's oil cups were the best cups to use.

2 - The Miracle Cream

Merc Corporation has just completed trials on its new facial cream, No Age. No Age will soon hit the shelves at all major retailers. This product has the promise to be one of the best creams to prevent wrinkles. Hopefully people will discover its amazing abilities to make skin look better. Give it a shot. It just might turn you into your old self.

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Inform readers that Merc Corporation made a new cream.
- b) Persuade readers that No Age cream will make them look younger.
- c) Entertain readers with a story about how No Age cream made a woman look younger.
- d) Persuade readers that Merc Corporation is the best place to work.

3 - Don't Destroy the Park

At the upcoming city council meeting, the council will vote on whether or not to destroy Pilla Park and turn it into a shopping mall. I am writing to tell you this is a bad idea. Hundreds of kids and families in Eudora use the park each week. Also, it is a great place to hang out in the summer because of the full-grown trees all throughout. Please think about the advantages of having a great park close to downtown before making your vote.

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Persuade readers that a shopping mall should be built.
- b) Inform readers that the city council will vote on building a new shopping mall soon.
- c) Persuade readers that Pilla Park is a great place and should not be destroyed.
- d) Inform readers that Pilla Park is a great place and should not be destroyed.

11 - The Best Car for the Money

If you are looking to buy a car, you should really consider a Honda Odyssey Van. This van has it all, from 24 cup holders to doors that will open and close with a touch of a button. If you have a family, this van is perfect for you. The van has 3 rows of seats, plus room in the trunk to store all of your luggage, or bikes. Think about buying this van if you want to have it all, and look really cool.

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Entertain readers with a story about a family buying a van.
- b) Inform readers about the Honda Odyssey Van.
- c) Persuade readers to purchase a Honda Odyssey Van.
- d) Inform readers about all of the cool features inside a Honda Odyssey Van.

14 - The Greatest Toy

Many people have wondered - what is the greatest toy in the history of toys? Depending on when you grew up, you might have a different answer. Older people might say Lincoln Logs. Others might argue the Easy-Bake oven tops them all. However, none compare to the best toy - Legos. Legos are the best because their fun never ends. Unlike other toys that have a certain purpose, Legos are all up to the imagination of the child, or adult. Also, Legos are meant to be destroyed, and rebuilt. So if your baby sister knocks down the creation you just made, its cool because you can make something new! So, next time you go shopping for a gift, think about buying Legos - the world's best toy.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Persuade the reader to think that Legos are the best toy in the world.
- b) Inform the reader about several different popular toys over the last few years.
- c) Entertain the reader with a story about a boy who had his Lego design destroyed by his sister.
- d) Persuade the reader to buy an Easy-Bake Oven, Lincoln Logs, and Legos.

16 - The Next President

Next week, citizens of the United States of America will go to the polls and vote for the future President of the United States. The candidate that should win is Frank Stalone. Frank is a family man that looks out for all types of people. He is good at problem-solving, and has proven to be strong when dealing with the economy. Finally, Frank has a military background. These good traits are why you should vote for Frank Stalone for the next President of the United States.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Inform the reader that we will soon be electing a new President.
- b) Inform the reader that Frank Stalone is running for President.
- c) Persuade the reader to vote for Frank Stalone in the upcoming Presidential election.
- d) Entertain the reader with a funny story about a silly man running for President.

18 - Dogs VS Cats

Ever wondered which pet is a better pet - a dog or a cat? In my opinion, it isn't even close. A dog is much better than a cat. To start with, a dog will be very loyal to you for life. As soon as you walk in the door, your dog will be waiting with a tail wagging. The cat will be hiding behind a curtain. Dogs also help to keep you healthier because they love to walk. Taking a dog on a walk once or twice a day will keep your dog happy, and get you exercising. Try taking a cat on a walk. You won't make it down the block until your cat refuses to go any further and you end up carrying the cat back to your house. Trust me - stick with a dog when getting a new pet.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Persuade the reader to buy a new pet soon.
- b) Persuade the reader to get a dog instead of a cat as a pet.
- c) Entertain the reader with a story about a dog and a cat living in the same house.
- d) Entertain the reader with a story about trying to walk a cat.

20 - Best Place on Earth

I just got back from the best place on Earth - Disneyland. Turns out the best place on Earth is the worst place on Earth. Buying a ticket is terrible because of the price. Taking a family of four is way too expensive. However, once you are inside, it just gets worse. The lines for each ride are really long, and then rides only last 2-3 minutes. Don't even get me started on lunch. How about paying \$10.00 for a hot dog and \$5.50 for a bottle of water. When planning a vacation, trust me, stay away from Disneyland.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Entertain the reader with a sad story about a family that went to Disneyland for vacation.
- b) Inform the reader about the prices for food at Disneyland.
- c) Persuade the reader not to go to Disneyland for vacation.
- d) Persuade the reader to go to Disneyland for vacation.

7 - Soccer

Soccer is one of the best sports to play. It teaches teamwork, encourages exercise, and develops good foot-eye coordination. Also, soccer has two seasons, unlike most other sports. You get a chance to play in the Fall and the Spring. Something else that makes soccer a really great sport to play is that there are different ways to play the sport. For example, you can play 3 on 3, or even indoor. Also, many leagues offer co-ed soccer teams in which boys and girls can play on the same team. Soccer is a great sport to play.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Persuade the reader that soccer is a sport that everyone should play.
- b) Persuade the reader that 3 on 3 soccer is better than regular soccer.
- c) Inform the reader that soccer has two seasons.
- d) Inform the reader that soccer requires you to have good skills.

6 - Benjamin

Benjamin was running as fast as he could. He had to dodge between people on the street-women carrying market baskets, men with their walking sticks and white wigs. His own legs, in pants and knee-high white stockings, flashed like the spoke of a wheel as he ran. At first, he had heard his mother trying to call him back. "Benjamin! Stop right now!" But her voice had grown distant as he raced down the road. He had to get there in time...he just had to. He had to tell his dad to vote against the British rule.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Entertain readers about a story of a boy trying to find his dad.
- b) Inform readers of how the British started the war.
- c) Persuade readers to think the British were to blame for the war starting.
- d) Entertain readers with a story about a boy running in a race.

9 - Spaceship

As the spaceship raced toward Earth, my heart pounded. Never before had I seen the planet of our forefathers. This was the place that they had left when they started the colony on Pluto. That was long before they came to Star System XPA. The mother planet had not been exposed until a year ago. I am so lucky to have been chosen to return!

Captain Zekot asked for me by name, because of my understanding of history. I was thrilled that he would ask me on such an important mission with the group of scientists. To be asked on the Great Dig, to find the remains of the homes of our forefathers, is a huge favor.

As we neared Earth, we came in view of Mars. "Should we stop, sir?" asked the pilot to Captain Zekot.

"I don't think so," said the captain. "There is no water on that planet and only a few carts and other objects from the Early Explorations. We need to stay on schedule to reach Earth."

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) Persuade readers to travel in space.
- b) Inform readers that space travel is difficult to do.
- c) Entertain readers with a story about a boy going back to Earth.
- d) Entertain readers with a story about a boy visiting Mars.

10 - Queen Emma

It was the day of the school Halloween party. Emma got up early to get ready. She put on the yellow tights, purple dress, and pink hair clip that she had set out the night before on her yellow, striped armchair. She looked in a drawer and took out a big, pink plastic ring and four yellow stretch bracelets. After she put on the jewelry, she got down on the floor and looked under her canopy bed. She took out a pair of high-top running shoes that were light purple. She had added pink and yellow flower decals to the sides of the shoes. She laced these up and looked at herself in the mirror on the back of the closet door. Then she ran downstairs for breakfast.

Her mother was buttering toast. She glanced at Emma. "Isn't today the day of the Halloween party?" she asked.

"It is," said Emma, reaching for some orange juice.

"Why aren't you wearing a costume?" asked her mother.

"I am," said Emma. "I'm going as myself, Queen Emma of Wild Color World!"

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) To entertain readers with a funny story about a girl dressing up for Halloween.
- b) To Persuade readers that you should try to match your clothes when getting dressed.
- c) To Persuade readers that your mother should help you get dressed, otherwise you might look goofy.
- d) To entertain readers with a story about a girl who was almost late for the Halloween party.

12 - Athens

When a new city was being built on the rocky hills of Greece, both Athena and Poseidon wanted to be its guardian. They started to argue. Poseidon said, "I am the god of the sea. These people will make their living from the sea!"

Athena said, "I am the goddess of wisdom. The people who live here will love learning and peace."

Zeus sent Kekrops, a child of Earth, to keep the two from clashing.

Kekrops said, "Let's have a contest. Each of you must make something for this new city. The one who creates the most valuable thing will become the protector of this place."

Poseidon created a well. "A well," said Kekrops. "Yes, water will be very important. This is a hot and rocky place. But wells can dry up. What then?"

Athena created an olive tree. "This tree will give shade to this scorching place," said Kekrops. "But it will also give food and oil. And this tree is made to grow in the heat and live without much water. I say that Athena is the winner!"

Athena was happy and smiled. Poseidon grumbled but bowed to Athena and said, "A fine effort!"

And that is how the new city came to be named Athens.

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a) To inform the reader about how Athens got its name.
- b) To persuade the reader about why Athena gave the best gift.
- c) To entertain the reader with a story about how Athens got its name.
- d) To persuade the reader about why an Olive Tree was a better gift than a well.

15 - Bear?

Samuel was scared. He usually walked with others to the village. But today he had to get to his job, and no one else was able to go with him. He was walking alone on the path to the store when he heard a rustling in the woods. He started to walk faster. What if the rustling was a bear? He heard the rustling again. If the noise was a bear, he should not run. The bear would chase him. There was a loud cracking of a stick, and a deer bounded out on the path in front of Samuel. Samuel breathed a sigh of relief. Only a deer!

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Persuade readers never to go into the forest alone.
- b) Entertain readers with a story of a boy who got lost in the woods forever.
- c) Inform readers about how to survive a bear attack.
- d) Entertain readers with a story of a boy who heard noises in the woods.

19 - King Zook

It all started with a trading card. I had to have it. It was King Zook from Planet B in the "Star Invasions" set. In perfect condition. Milton said I could have it for four dollars. But I only had two dollars left in my pocket.

"What about your lunch money, Mark?" asked Milton.

My lunch money! Of course! I handed over another two dollars, and that left me fifty cents. I could buy a chocolate milk and coast through the afternoon. No problem, I thought, carefully putting my King Zook card in the pocket of my notebook.

The Author's main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Inform the reader about what it takes to buy a King Zook card.
- b) Inform the reader about how much a King Zook card costs.
- c) Entertain the reader with a story about a boy who had to have a King Zook card.
- d) Entertain the reader with a story about a boy who lost all of his lunch money.

22 - The Beach

Jessica felt exhausted after her math test. She teleported home instead of going to the library with Tim and Tanner. “Is that you, Jessica?” called Mom when Jessica walked in the door.

“It’s me,” Jessica called back. “I got 100 on my math test.” She walked into the kitchen. There was Mom on the big screen TV. She was sitting at the desk in her office, but she had gone online to talk to Jessica when she got home.

“That’s great!” said Mom. “You look a little tired, honey. Would you like to go to the beach and relax in the sun for a while?”

Jessica smiled. “That would be great!” she said. “I love the beach.”

Mom punched in a series of buttons on her desk. The kitchen walls suddenly disappeared. Suddenly, Jessica was standing on sand. She was wearing a bathing suit and a big hat. She flopped down on a large, soft towel in the sun. Her favorite book was waiting for her on the towel. The waves made a soothing sound. Jessica knew the whole thing was fake, but Jessica didn’t mind. “Thanks, Mom!” Jessica called.

“See you when I get home, honey,” said her mother’s voice. “Over and out.”

The Author’s main purpose for writing this passage is to

- a) Entertain readers with an interesting story about Jessica going to the beach.
- b) Entertain readers with an interesting story about Jessica and her Mom going to the beach.
- c) Persuade readers that the future will allow us to go anywhere instantly.
- d) Persuade readers that Jessica’s mom really loved Jessica.

Key

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. b
5. b
6. a
7. a
8. c
9. c
10. a
11. c
12. c
13. d
14. a
15. d
16. c
17. b
18. b
19. c
20. c
21. c
22. a

Author's Purpose Around the Room Answer Sheet

Name _____

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