

# SMART™ Lesson

## Analyzing the Author's Purpose in Literary Nonfiction

Literary nonfiction is a genre of writing that combines factual information with literary elements. It is a type of writing that tells a true story in a way that engages the reader and communicates important information. Analyzing the author's purpose is an important skill when reading literary nonfiction.

### What is the author's purpose?

The author's purpose is the reason why the author wrote the text. In literary nonfiction, the author's purpose may be to inform, persuade, entertain, or reflect. It is important to identify the author's purpose because it can help you better understand the text and the message the author is trying to convey.

### How can you identify the author's purpose?

There are several strategies you can use to identify the author's purpose:

- Look at the title and subheadings. They may reveal the author's purpose.
- Consider the tone of the text. The author's tone can reveal their purpose. For example, if the author's tone is sarcastic, their purpose may be to criticize.
- Consider the author's background and perspective. Their background and perspective can influence their purpose. For example, if the author is a scientist, their purpose may be to inform about scientific research.

### Why is it important to analyze the author's purpose in literary nonfiction?

Analyzing the author's purpose in literary nonfiction can help you:

- Understand the message the author is trying to convey
- Identify bias or underlying assumptions
- Evaluate the credibility of the information presented

## Worksheet

Read the following passage and answer the questions:

*Why Cats Are Great Companions*

Cats are often thought of as aloof and independent animals, but they can be great companions for many reasons. First, cats are low-maintenance pets. They are relatively easy to care for and do not require as much attention as dogs. Second, cats are naturally clean animals. They spend a lot of time grooming themselves, which means they do not require frequent baths or grooming. Third, cats are affectionate animals. While they may not always be cuddly, they often enjoy spending time with their owners and showing affection in their own way. Finally, cats are quiet and do not make a lot of noise. This can be a great advantage for people who live in apartments or have neighbors who do not appreciate loud pets.

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?
2. What is an advantage of having a cat over a dog?
3. What is an advantage of having a cat for people who live in apartments?

1. To inform about the benefits of having a cat as a pet.
2. Cats do not require as much attention as dogs.
3. Cats are quiet and do not make a lot of noise.