**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.

**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?

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**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.
Writing • Biographical Sketch

Key Features of a Biographical Sketch

• tells about a real person’s life
• uses precise language and sensory details
• can show the subject’s personality
• may use quotations to reveal the subject’s personality

My friend Tonya is a natural business person. She can sell anything to anyone, from cookies to T-shirts with a special pattern that she has made. Last summer, Tonya decided to try a new kind of business: selling sweet tea from a stand in front of her house.

I helped Tonya prepare a tall pitcher of tea on the first day of her new enterprise. As we worked in her mother’s kitchen, she told me, “This’ll be a great idea. The key to any good business is giving people what they want. It’s so hot in the summertime that everyone will want a cool, refreshing drink.”

But that first day didn’t go quite as well as she had hoped. She sat in front of her house next to a big, bright sign advertising “Tea 25 cents.” The afternoon was dry and hot. It was the perfect weather for a cool drink. But only a few cars passed by her narrow yard, and only one car stopped.

That night, Tonya asked her mother for advice. Tonya gets a lot of her business knowledge from her mother, who’s a buyer for the department store downtown. Her mother told her, “Tonya, you can’t wait for your customers to come to you. You have to go where your customers are.”

Early the next morning, I helped Tonya set up her stand in a different spot. We went to the park by the train station, where crowds of people were on their way to work. The morning was hot, the people were thirsty, and by ten-thirty we’d sold out of all the tea we’d brought. Tonya was right: her tea stand was a great idea!

1. What sensory details does the author use to describe the weather?

2. Underline the quotation from Tonya. What does this quotation show about her?
**Vocabulary**

**Directions** Draw a line to connect each word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. monitors  part played in real life  
2. role  the force that causes objects to move or tend to move toward the center of the Earth  
3. gravity  computer screens  
4. accomplishments  definite  
5. specific  achievements  

**Directions** Choose a word from the box that best matches each clue. Write the word on the line.

6. what gets the most attention
7. this keeps our feet on the ground
8. they show information
9. things you can successfully complete
10. not just anything

**Write a Scene from a Play**

On a separate sheet of paper, write a short scene from a play about an astronaut telling his granddaughter what it was like to fly to the moon. Use as many vocabulary words as you can.

**Home Activity** Your child identified and used vocabulary words from the interview *Talk with an Astronaut.* Have your child interview you about the work you do.
Talk with an Astronaut

This, That, These, and Those

The adjectives this, that, these, and those tell which one or which ones. This and that modify singular nouns. These and those modify plural nouns. This and these refer to objects that are close by. That and those refer to objects farther away.

This shirt I have on is like that one in the store window.

These pencils just fit in the pocket, but those pens on the desk did not fit.

• Do not use here or there after this, that, these, or those.
  No:  This here article is about NASA. That there one is about new computers.
  Yes:  This article is about NASA. That one is about new computers.

• Do not use them in place of these or those.
  No:  She wrote them articles for Newsweek.
  Yes:  She wrote those articles for Newsweek.

Directions Write the letter of the sentence in which the underlined part is correct.

1. A That there space capsule is smaller than I realized.
   B That space capsule is smaller than I realized.

2. A I think them astronauts were brave to travel in it.
   B I think those astronauts were brave to travel in it.

3. A Is that spacesuit the one worn by John Glenn?
   B Is those spacesuit the one worn by John Glenn?

4. A This here time line shows the history of space flight.
   B This time line shows the history of space flight.

5. A Robert Goddard helped design these early rockets.
   B Robert Goddard helped design them early rockets.

Directions Write each sentence. Use the correct adjective in ( ).

6. Will (that, those) storm reach Florida today?

7. If it does, NASA will postpone (this, these) shuttle launch.

8. Use (them, those) binoculars to view the launch.

Home Activity Your child learned about this, that, these, and those. Write the words on four index cards. Ask your child to match each word with the appropriate category: singular near, singular far, plural near, plural far.

Conventions This, That, These, and Those

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PDF
Talk with an Astronaut

Name ________________________________

Greek Word Parts

Classifying  Write the list word that best fits each group.
1. animal, study, science, ____
2. travel, pleasure, recreation, ____
3. soprano, bass, tenor, ____
4. paint, canvas, sculpture, ____
5. rocks, minerals, earth, ____
6. plants, animals, study, ____
7. courage, bravery, fortitude, ____
8. weather, forecast, barometer, ____
9. writing, reporting, news, ____
10. fear, water, abnormal, ____

Definitions
11. a persistent, abnormal fear or dislike
12. one who draws a comic strip
13. a person who writes novels
14. the development of new ways to solve problems
15. an abnormal fear of technology
16. a person who plays the violin
17. love and devotion to one’s country
18. economic system based on the private ownership of industry
19. fear of being in small or enclosed spaces
20. study of the relation of living things to their environment and one another

Spelling Words
artist   tourism   biology   phobia   heroism
geology  cartoonist technology journalism hydrophobia
violinist ecology  patriotism vocalist meteorology
t zoology  claustraphobia  capitalism novelist technophobia

Home Activity  Your child wrote words that have Greek word parts. Have your child underline the Greek word part in each word.
Talk with an Astronaut

**Story Sequence B**

- **Title**
- **Characters**
- **Setting**
- **Events**

Name ________________________________
Talk with an Astronaut

Vocabulary • Multiple-Meaning Words

• Some words have more than one meaning. They are called multiple-meaning words.
• If you read a word that you recognize, but it is used in an unfamiliar way, look for clues about its meaning in the words nearby. Then use a dictionary to help you understand its meaning.

Directions  Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below. Look for context clues to help you understand words with multiple meanings.

You could say astronomers are monitors of the skies. They focus in on the details of our vast universe so we can understand the bigger picture. Even though the serious work astronomers do has a lot of gravity, or seriousness, most of them will admit they feel as excited as kids when a major discovery is made.

To become an astronomer, you have to study many elements of science, such as gravity, with a dedication and focus most people find hard to have. But once you complete your education and are a working astronomer studying space, the sky truly is the limit.

1. How would you define the word monitors as it is used in the passage?

2. What is another definition for the word monitors?

3. What context clues helped you understand the way the word gravity was used in the passage the first time?

4. What does focus mean the first time it is used in the passage?

5. What does focus mean the second time it is used in the passage?

Home Activity  Your child used context clues to help define words with multiple meanings. Work together to try to use other words with multiple meanings to make up a silly poem.
Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature

- The Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature is a set of books that lists, alphabetically by author and subject, the articles that are published in more than 200 periodicals. Each entry provides an article’s title, author, volume, pages, and date.
- You can find a Readers’ Guide in most libraries.

Directions Read the following page, which is similar to one you would find in the Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature. Then answer the questions below.

ASTRONAUTS—
See also
Moonwalk
NASA
Shuttle
Astronaut interviews. School Zone v496 p18 Ja ’02
Astrophysics. L. Jones. Science Explorers v117 p87 My ’02
Calling Earth [astronaut talks about mission] G. Calwell. The Northwest Herald Sec D p1
Au 17 ’02
Miraculous Adventure [astronaut orbits Earth] R. Gold. Discover the World v198 p29 Jy ’03
Where is NASA’s Latest Mission? S. Bobrick. Mysteries of Space v48 p31 Mr ’03
The Years Before Space Exploration [training astronauts in 1950s] A. Hether. Our Times p44
F ’03

1. Which article would probably be the best to read if you were writing a research paper on the training of the first astronauts?

2. In each listing, where does the title of the article appear?

3. What do the words in brackets tell you?

4. Are there any books listed in this section? How do you know?

5. Why is the Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature a valuable tool?
Directions Read the following page. Then answer the questions below.

MARS
See also
Martians
Red Planet
Solar System–Planets
Space Exploration
Are the Martians Coming? A. Wilson. Mysteries of Space v22 p24 D ’03
Astral Recordings. Science Sounds v6 p33 F ’04
Earth’s Neighbors [Venus and Mars] T. Charleston. The Jersey Times Sec 1 p3 O 7 ’03
Ice on Mars [NASA’s report on ice deposits] W. M. Walters. This Great Planet v8 p29 Ja ’04
Life on Mars? [research by University of Minnesota] L. Fulkner. Science Research Weekly p8 S 18 ’03

6. Why do you think the “See also” references are placed at the top of the listing?

7. According to the listing above, what is the focus of the article in The Jersey Times?

8. If you were writing a report on the possibility of water existing on Mars, which article or articles would be most helpful?

9. How would you describe one of the major differences between a library card catalog and the Readers’ Guide?

10. If you were writing a research paper, why might you use the Readers’ Guide?

Home Activity Your child answered questions about the Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature. Together, gather several magazines and create your own Readers’ Guide listings for them. Encourage your child to catalog as many articles from the magazines as possible.

346 Research and Study Skills
Name ________________________________

**Greek Word Parts**

**Proofread an Article** Circle six spelling errors in the article. Write the corrections on the lines. Find the sentence with two punctuation errors and write the sentence correctly.

**Vacation in Millville**

This year many of Millville’s families will spend their summer vacations at home. The city's bureau of tourism has great ideas on where to go and what to see. The Museum of Natural History has exhibits on geology and meteorology. Meanwhile Millville’s war memorial holds stories of local heroism and patriotism. Kids of all ages are invited to the park’s month-long festival of ecology and zoology. With all that Millville has to offer, its bound to be a fun summer!

1. ____________  2. ____________
3. ____________  4. ____________
5. ____________  6. ____________
7. __________________________________________________________________

**Proofread Words** Circle the correct spelling of the word.

8. journalism journalism jurnalism
9. violinist vilinist vylinist
10. captalism capitalism capetlism
11. tecknology teknology technology
12. cartoonist cartunist cartoonis
13. ecology ekology ecology
14. biology bilogy biologie
15. clastrofobia claustraphobia claustrophobia
16. hidrofobia hydrophobia hydrofobia

**Spelling Words**

- artist
- tourism
- biology
- phobia
- heroism
- geology
- cartoonist
- technology
- journalism
- hydrophobia
- violinist
- ecology
- patriotism
- vocalist
- meteorology
- zoology
- claustrophobia
- capitalism
- novelist
- technophobia

**Frequently Misspelled Words**

- I’m
- it’s
- let’s

**Home Activity** Your child identified misspelled list words. Ask your child to spell four words, each with a different Greek word part, and tell you what the words mean.
This, That, These, and Those

Directions  Read the passage. Then read each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

Man on the Moon

(1) Today, we continued to analyze the surface of this dark moon.  
(2) Temperatures here are very low, and we would freeze without these here suits.  
(3) Them early astronauts were extremely brave to come here.  
(4) Regarding those rumors of life on this moon, we believe they are false.  
(5) ______ old report submitted by Colonel Brown appears to be correct.  
(6) We have collected rocks and soil samples.  
(7) We have found no evidence in those there rocks that water ever ran here.

1  In sentence 1, the underlined word suggests what?  
   A  The author is cold.  
   B  The author is on the moon.  
   C  The author is lonely.  
   D  The author had once gone to the moon.

2  What change, if any, should be made in sentence 2?  
   A  Change here to there  
   B  Change we would to we did  
   C  Change these here suits to these suits  
   D  Make no change

3  What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?  
   A  Change Them to Those  
   B  Change Them to This  
   C  Change were to was  
   D  Make no change

4  Which article could be used to complete sentence 5?  
   A  These  
   B  That  
   C  Those  
   D  All could be used

5  What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?  
   A  Change those to this  
   B  Change those to these  
   C  Change those there to those  
   D  Make no change

Home Activity  Your child prepared for taking tests on this, that, these, and those. Ask your child to use these adjectives with the names of objects you point out in a room to describe their number and location.