

The Author's Main Purpose

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

Authors write for a reason. Some write to explain how something works. Some write to describe a thing. Ask: what does the author want me to know?

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Why Plants Need the Sun

Plants are living things, just like animals. But plants cannot walk to find food. Instead, plants make their own food. To do this, a plant needs three things. It needs sunlight, water, and air.

The leaves of a plant catch the light from the sun. The plant uses this light to make food. This food is a kind of sugar. The plant uses the sugar to grow tall and strong. Without sunlight, a plant cannot make food.

A plant that does not get sunlight will turn pale and weak. Soon it may die. That is why you should put a plant near a sunny window. The sun helps the plant stay green, healthy, and alive.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Read the passage. Then answer each question about why the author wrote it.

1. What is the author's main purpose in this passage?
 - A. to tell a funny story about a plant
 - B. to explain why plants need the sun
 - C. to teach you to draw a flower
 - D. to sell new garden tools
2. Why did the author write paragraph 2?
 - A. to explain how a plant makes food with sunlight
 - B. to tell a story about a window
 - C. to describe a funny leaf
 - D. to list the names of plants



3. What does the author want you to learn?
 - A. Plants can walk to find food.
 - B. Plants need sunlight, water, and air.
 - C. Plants do not need anything to grow.
 - D. Plants are not living things.
4. What food does a plant make with sunlight?
 - A. a kind of sugar
 - B. leaves
 - C. water
 - D. soil
5. Why did the author write the last paragraph?
 - A. to describe a pale leaf
 - B. to explain what happens to a plant without sun, and what to do
 - C. to tell a joke about windows
 - D. to ask you to buy a plant
6. The author most wants the reader to understand that the sun helps plants _____.
 - A. sleep
 - B. make food and stay alive
 - C. change color for fun
 - D. move around
7. What would be a good question to ask after reading this passage?
 - A. What is the name of the plant?
 - B. How does a plant use the sun?
 - C. What color is the window?
 - D. Who watered the plant?
8. The author wrote this passage mostly to make the reader laugh.
T / F
9. What is one fact the author wants you to know about the sun and plants?

10. Why do you think the author wrote this passage? Use the text to explain.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 T F
- 9
- 10

Explanations

1. B	The whole passage explains why plants need sunlight to live.
2. A	Paragraph 2 explains how leaves use sunlight to make food.
3. B	Paragraph 1 says a plant needs sunlight, water, and air.
4. A	Paragraph 2 says the food is a kind of sugar.
5. B	The last paragraph explains the danger of no sun and tells you to use a sunny window.
6. B	The passage explains the sun lets plants make food and stay alive.
7. B	The author wrote to explain how a plant uses the sun, so this question fits.
8. F	The author wrote to explain why plants need the sun.
9.	Answer: Without sunlight, a plant cannot make food and may die. Accept any fact about the sun helping plants make food and grow.
10.	Answer: The author wrote it to explain why plants need the sun to make food and live. Accept any answer about explaining why plants need the sun.



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