

# 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.   | <b>Answer:</b> Without sunlight, a plant cannot make food and may die.<br>Accept any fact about the sun helping plants make food and grow.                  |
| 10.  | <b>Answer:</b> The author wrote it to explain why plants need the sun to make food and live.<br>Accept any answer about explaining why plants need the sun. |



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