



# What Does Author's Purpose Mean?

By: Lori McDonald  
Elementary school teacher; Ed.D. in School Leadership/Administration

Language Arts  
Grades 3-5



## Introduction

Students are instantly engaged in this lesson about finding the author's purpose with a catchy and familiar song. It continues with an interactive read-aloud and partner activities.

## Learning Objectives

([CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.3.4.A](#)) Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

## Materials Needed

- *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World* by Marjorie Priceman

## Procedure

**Warm-up** - Play the song, "Happy", by Pharrell Williams. Have students listen to the lyrics and take notes on what they think the main idea or message is that the writer of the song wants to convey. Explain to students that this is called looking for the "author's purpose".

1. Bring students together and read-aloud the story, *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World* by Marjorie Priceman. The first time, simply read straight through for enjoyment.
2. For the second read, stop and ask questions throughout. For example:
  - **Do you think this author has ever been to Italy (England, Sri Lanka, France, etc. as you get to those countries in the book)?**
  - **What do you think about Jamaica based on the illustrations?**
  - **How many countries and continents are mentioned?**
  - **Do you have to travel around the world to make an apple pie?**
  - **Why did the author make this book if you don't have to travel around the world to make an apple pie?**
  - (Add your own questions as well.)
3. Put students in small groups. Have them discuss the reasons that the author may have written the book. There can be multiple purposes.

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4. Have each group fill out the author's purpose [graphic organizer](#).
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## Evaluation

Have students work independently to complete the following exit ticket as a formative assessment.

**What do you think the author's purpose for writing this book is? Give specific examples from the text.**