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Set a Purpose for Reading

P.A.P.1

Readers have a purpose for reading. When you read, you should know your purpose. Do you want to be entertained? Do you want to find out more about a subject? Do you need to know how to do something?

Authors usually have a purpose, too. They may want to entertain you. They may want to give you information. They may want to convince you to agree with them about something.

Ask As you read, ask whether you and the author share the same purpose. For example, you may read a magazine article to find out more about goat milk. The author may have written the article to convince readers that goats make good pets. Would that article be likely to help you?

Example

What is the main reason someone would read “Giant Pandas”?

- Ⓐ to figure out how much giant pandas weigh
- Ⓑ to learn more details about giant pandas
- Ⓒ to learn how to grow bamboo

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- Ⓐ The story does say how much pandas usually weigh. But this is just one detail about the pandas. It isn't the main reason that someone would read the selection.
- Ⓑ Look at the passage headings to get an idea of the subjects the author covers. Someone reading this selection looking for general information about giant pandas would not be disappointed.
- Ⓒ The selection doesn't explain how to grow bamboo. So this cannot be the main reason for reading the selection.



Connections When you read a magazine, you see articles and advertisements. Fill in the chart below to show the purpose(s) they usually serve for their authors and their readers.

	Authors	Readers
Articles		
Advertisements		