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PART I

Recognizing Author's Purpose

Authors have different reasons for writing. When you read, it's important to recognize the author's purpose. You can find clues in the way the author presents information, the details the author includes, and the author's use of language.

- A selection full of facts and details is usually meant to **explain** or **inform**.
- A selection that gives directions on how to do something, such as a recipe, is usually meant to **instruct**.
- An advertisement, or a selection that contains many opinions, is usually meant to **persuade** the reader to do or believe something.
- A selection with a lot of details that appeal to the senses is usually meant to **describe**.
- A story, poem, or personal essay is usually meant to **entertain, amuse, or express feelings**, though it may reveal another purpose in doing so.

Read the passage. Then answer the question that follows.

It was one of those falling-down buildings over on Third Street. No one had lived in it for years, but no one had seen fit to tear it down. Mom said the owner, whoever that was, was probably waiting for land values to go up.

I knew Luis and his friends were using the place for their clubhouse, even though Mom had told him it wasn't safe. Any fool could see it was full of deadly hazards. There were loose beams and torn-up

floorboards. Vandals had ripped out the plumbing, leaving pools of poisonous waste. The place reeked. I didn't know how they could stand it, but they were 9 and they were boys.

I could hear them in the basement, the most disgusting, dangerous place of all. Their voices were strangely quiet, without the usual goon sounds of little boys trying to be big. I didn't think anything of it until I stumbled in and saw what they had found.

The author's *main* purpose in writing this selection is to—

- A** inform
- B** instruct
- C** persuade
- D** entertain

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Purpose

The three paragraphs are about a girl looking for her brother in a dangerous building. The author's use of language and the narrator's thoughts tell you that you are reading a work of fiction, a story meant to **entertain** you: choice D.

PART II

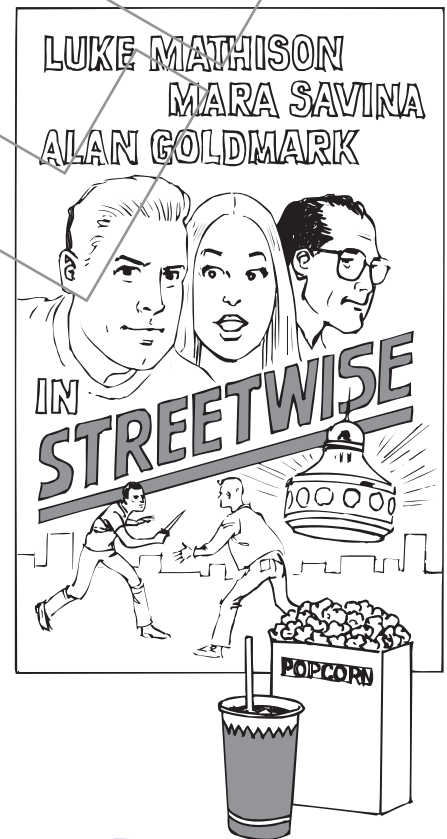
Practice Exercises

Read each selection. Then answer the questions about recognizing author's purpose.

Streetwise

a movie review by Theresa Campbell

If you're looking for a good movie, *don't* go see *Streetwise*, opening this week at Riverside Mall. Teens have been anticipating this movie all summer. It stars everybody's favorite dream date, Luke Mathison, so it's bound to be good, right? Wrong! Luke plays Taggart, a young man from the future in today's New York City. He's trying to rescue a scientist, played by Alan Goldmark, who was testing a time machine and got zapped into our time by accident. Taggart has to battle a nasty street gang and some even nastier scientists who are trying to steal the time machine. Mara Savina plays Juliet, a girl who's trying to leave the gang life. Surprise—she and Taggart fall in love! Will Taggart complete his mission? And will he risk changing the future by bringing Juliet back with him? No suspense in *this* movie! The dialogue is embarrassing. Some Hollywood people must think this is how teens actually talk. They also must have thought that boys would go see *Streetwise* for the action and special effects and girls would go see it because of Luke. My advice to both boys and girls is—save your money.



- 1 The author's *main* purpose in this selection is to—
 - A give facts and details about the movie *Streetwise*
 - B persuade readers not to see the movie *Streetwise*
 - C amuse readers by relating the plot of *Streetwise*
 - D inform readers where they can see *Streetwise*

- 2 Who is Theresa Campbell's intended audience?
 - A her teacher
 - B all movie fans
 - C teenage movie fans
 - D general readers

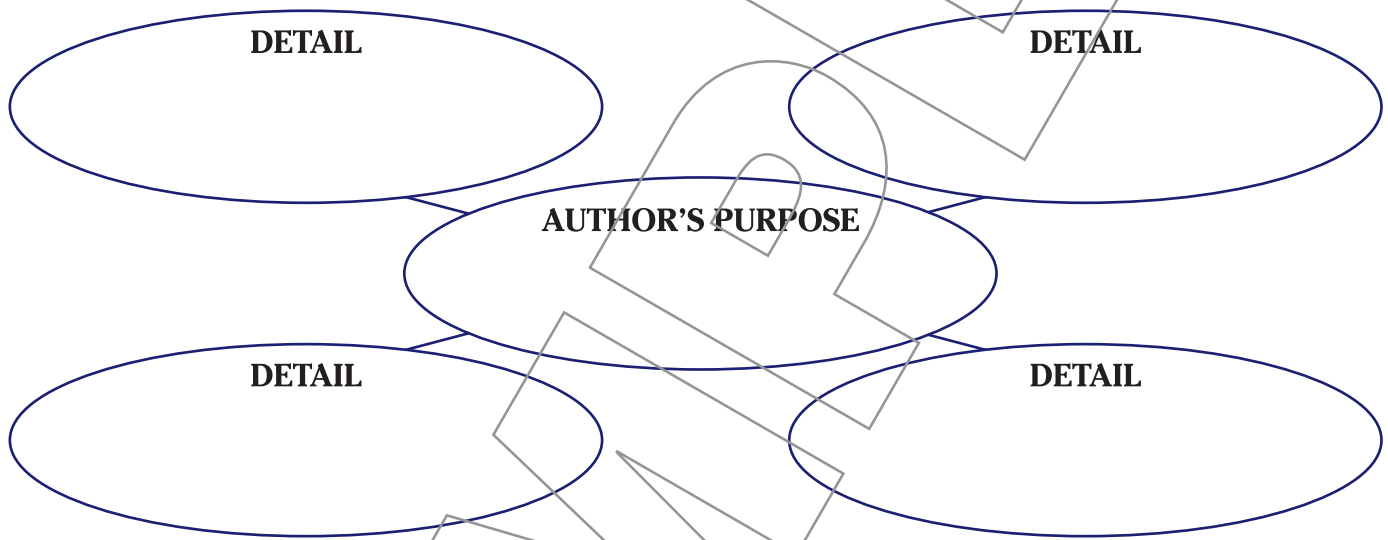
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2 Which of these statements is an opinion?

- A The perfect pet for city dwellers needs no leash, litter box, or pet food.
- B One worm can devour garbage equal to its own weight in one day.
- C A wooden worm box can either be bought or built at home.
- D Any kind of garbage—except meat, bones, and gr easy food—is fine.

3 Use this graphic organizer to show four details that indicate the author's purpose.



The clambake is a New England tradition that is older than the Pilgrims. Native Americans developed the technique of steaming seafood in a rock-lined sand pit centuries before that first Thanksgiving. Generations of New Englanders have enjoyed this fabled feast, and for many today it just isn't summer without one, preferably with fresh watermelon for dessert.

Alas, a real clambake—that is, one on an ocean beach—is no longer possible in Massachusetts, as state law prohibits open fires. Some people prefer the convenience of an indoor clambake prepared in a steamer, but for the authentic experience, it's worth a trip by car or boat to a place where the real thing is permitted. It's an all-day project,



particularly if you dig the clams yourself. But as “steamers” are readily available in fish markets and even by order via the Internet, you may prefer to spare yourself some of the work.