

Why Did They Write?

Teacher-led listening and discussion about an author's reason for writing.

K.9.A "discuss with adult assistance the author's purpose for writing text;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

Teacher: this page is run aloud. The script and answers are on the guide page.

1 THINK WHY _____

a	Fun	Learn	Do
b	Do	Fun	Learn
c	Learn	Do	Fun

2 TALK IT OUT _____

a	Fun	Do	Learn
b	Learn	Fun	Do

HOW TO RUN THIS PAGE

Read each short text aloud, then invite students to say why they think the author wrote it before they circle a choice. Listen for students who can connect the text to a purpose such as helping readers learn, having fun, or asking readers to do something.

Students never read directions on this sheet. Read each part's script aloud, then each prompt, giving think time before students mark.

PART 1 • THINK WHY

SAY “Authors write for different reasons. They may help us learn, write for fun, or ask us to do something. Listen, talk about why the author wrote each text, and circle the reason.”

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Listen: “A seed needs water and sunlight to grow.” Did the author write this to help us learn, for fun, or to get us to do something? Circle your choice.	Learn
b	Listen: “Please put your books on the shelf.” Did the author write this to get us to do something, for fun, or to help us learn? Circle your choice.	Do
c	Listen: “Mia’s sock flew away. It landed on a duck’s head.” Did the author write this to help us learn, to get us to do something, or for fun? Circle your choice.	Fun

PART 2 • TALK IT OUT

SAY “Listen to each text. Tell me why you think the author wrote it and what words helped you decide. Then circle the reason you choose.”

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Listen: “Read a book with me tonight!” Did the author write this for fun, to get us to do something, or to help us learn? Circle your choice.	Do
b	Listen: “An ant has six legs.” Did the author write this to help us learn, for fun, or to get us to do something? Circle your choice.	Learn

WHAT TO ACCEPT

Answers, in order, are Learn, Do, Fun, Do, Learn. Accept a student’s circle when the student can discuss a reasonable connection between the text and its purpose with adult support.