

Strategies for Reading Success

Identifying author's purpose



The reason an author writes is the author's purpose.

- If a passage contains many details about a person, place or thing then the author's purpose is to describe.
- If a passage is enjoyable to read, tells a personal story or uses a story to teach a lesson, then the author's purpose is to entertain.
- If a passage provides facts about a particular subject or tells readers how to do something, the author's purpose is to explain or inform.
- If a passage contains many opinions or tries to get readers to do something, buy something or believe something, then the purpose is to persuade.



Interpreting figurative language



Similes, metaphors and idioms are all figurative language.

- Similes, metaphors and idioms create pictures from words.
- A simile compares two unlike things using the words 'like' or 'as'.
- A metaphor compares two unlike things by saying one thing is another.
- Idioms are common phrases in a language. The words have a different meaning from the literal, or usual, meaning.
- As you read, think about the pictures that come to mind. Remember the author uses figurative language to help create pictures in the reader's mind.



Summarising



A summary tells the main ideas or important points of a passage.

- A summary is not stated in the passage. Think about and restate the most important ideas to make a summary.
- A good summary of fiction tells about the main character's problem and solution.
- A good summary of nonfiction includes the main idea of the passage and the main idea of each paragraph.

