



Author's Purpose- Autumn Leaves

Read the passages. Write the author's purpose for writing each passage on the line.

To persuade the reader to...

To entertain the reader with a story about...

To inform the reader about...

To explain to the reader how to...

To describe a...

Kayla sat at her desk at school, trying to solve her problem. Her mom's birthday was next Monday, and she really wanted to give her mom a gift- the watch Kayla saw her mom looking at in the store would be perfect! *But how can I ever get \$20 in one week*, she thought.

Kayla gazed out the school window. She watched the wind whip around the leaves that had fallen from the giant maple tree in front of the school. Suddenly, an idea floated into her head. *Leaves!! I can earn some money by raking leaves!! I will make a sign and hang it around the neighborhood!*

1. What is the purpose of the above passage?
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Most leaves that were green all spring and summer change colors in the fall. Why does this happen? It starts with the sun. As summer ends and autumn begins, the days get shorter, and there is less sunlight. This helps the trees "know" to begin getting ready for winter. During winter, there is not enough water or sunlight for the trees to make their food. They will rest, and live off the food they stored during the summer. Because of this, the trees start to make less and less food. The green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves. We can now only see the yellow, orange, and red colors of the leaves. Small amounts of these colors had been in the leaves all summer, but we couldn't see them because they were covered by the green chlorophyll. Once the chlorophyll is gone, we can see the vibrant colors of fall.

2. What is the purpose of the above passage?
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If you have a big tree near your house or school, you know the mess they create in the fall. Many people gather their leaves and throw them away. There is an efficient way to do this. First, check the wind speed. It is essential that you rake on a windless day; otherwise, the wind will blow your leaves away! Second, gather your supplies. You will need a rake, garden gloves, and a garbage can. Next, rake your leaves into a pile. Start by raking in a large circle. Rake in a counter-clockwise direction, spiraling in until you have a big pile in the middle of your circle. Finally, move your garbage can next to the pile of leaves. Scoop the leaves into the garbage can. You are done!

3. What is the purpose of the above passage?

When Jacob's mom assigned him the task of raking the leaves that had fallen from the large oak tree in front of their house, he was less-than-excited. He soon discovered, however, that this was not so bad of a task after all. The crisp autumn air was enhanced by the bright, warming sunshine. As he dragged his rake against the ground, he laughed to himself as the crackle and crunch of the dry leaves reminded him of his favorite cereal. Before he knew it, he had a large pile of leaves in front of him. He bent down and wrapped his arms around a bunch to pick them up. As his nose detected the familiar scent, though, he just couldn't resist. He stood up and then leaned back and fell into the pile. He'd pick them up shortly, but not before enjoying this fall afternoon in a pile of just-raked leaves!

4. What is the purpose of the above passage?

Fall is the best time of year for many reasons. First, it is the perfect time to do fun, outdoor activities. Unlike summer (where you sweat buckets) and winter (where your nose and ears freeze within minutes of stepping outside), fall weather is perfect for going outside and riding a bike or going for a walk. Also, fall is the most beautiful time of the year. The colorful red, yellow, orange, brown, and multicolored leaves are simply incredible to see! During the other seasons, you pretty much see green leaves or no leaves at all, and that's boring. Another reason fall is the best season is because you can do things that you can't do the rest of the year! Can you rake leaves and jump into the huge pile or bury your brother or sister in leaves any other time of the year? Certainly not! What about carving pumpkins and celebrating Halloween? That only happens in the fall. Clearly, you will agree that fall is the absolute best season of the year.

5. What is the purpose of the above passage?
