

Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons the author has for writing.
- An author may write to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express feelings and ideas.

Directions Read the passage. Then fill in the chart below and answer the questions.

No one is exactly sure who fired the first shot of the American Revolution. When the British army arrived in Lexington, about seventy militiamen met them. The British were there to disarm the colonists, but the colonists were ready. The two sides stood face-to-face. After some yelling back and forth, a shot was fired. A battle followed.

When it was over, eight colonists were dead. Later, both sides blamed the other for firing first, but many claimed they had no idea who started shooting first. Still others said the first shot came from behind a hedge or from inside a tavern. The truth is, with all the confusion, we may never know who fired “the shot heard ’round the world.”

Author's Purpose	How You Know
1.	2.

3. If the author wished to use this same story to entertain, what could be done differently?

4. Was the author successful in achieving his or her purpose in this passage?

5. On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the paragraph with a different purpose, such as persuading, entertaining, or expressing an idea.

Copyright © Pearson Education, Inc., or its affiliates. All Rights Reserved. 5



Home Activity Your child analyzed the author's purpose in a historical account. Show your child an example of historical nonfiction and an example of historical fiction. Ask your child to explain the different purposes the authors had in the two examples.