

Author's Purpose

1. **RL.9-10.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. **RL.9-10.2** Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Procedures

1. Read the short story.
2. Fill out the chart.
3. Discuss.

ELA Standards

- **RI.9-10.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **RI.9-10.2** Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- **RI.9-10.3** Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.
- **RI.9-10.6** Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

RI.9-10.7 Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

The Fun They Had Isaac Asimov Possible Answers

ANALYZING AUTHOR’S PURPOSE: Writers have **at least** one of three main purposes: to inform, to persuade, or to entertain. To identify an author’s purpose, look for details in the story that directly express opinions or ideas. As you read, use the graphic organizer below to help analyze Asimov’s purpose for writing “The Fun They Had.”

Detail from Story	Opinion or Idea Expressed
<p>“On the page headed May 17, 2157, she wrote, “Today Tommy found a real book!””</p>	<p>Books as they were in 1951 will not exist in the future. This change has already begun with the popularity of e-readers. In this statement, Asimov’s purpose is to inform.</p>
<p>““Gee,” said Tommy, “what a waste. When you’re through with the book, you just throw it away, I guess. Our television screen must have had a million books on it and it’s good for plenty more. I wouldn’t throw it away.””</p>	<p>Here is a simple comparison between the old way of reading and the new way. The new way is much more efficient and practical, although there are many Luddites who cling to their antiques for reading. Asimov’s purpose here might be to persuade.</p>
<p>“Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes, “Because it’s not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago.” He added loftily,⁴ pronouncing the word carefully, “Centuries ago.””</p>	<p>Apparently, schools in the future will be completely different, too. This prediction has partially come true with the number of online offerings. My daughter, for example, takes Spanish through Rosetta Stone with no teacher. It helps that she lives in Spain during the course. Asimov’s purpose is to inform.</p>
<p>“Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had.”</p>	<p>This ironic ending demonstrates how human nature does not change. The purpose here is to entertain.</p>

What do you think Asimov’s primary purpose is for writing “The Fun They Had”?

Asimov’s purpose is to give a glimpse of education in the future. Its primary purpose is to inform in an entertaining manner. Although Asimov strongly believed in computerized learning, he makes no attempt to persuade in this particular story. Although the schools of the future change, human nature does not.

The Fun They Had

Isaac Asimov

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