

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes  
Eleanor Coerr

Introductory Activity – Author’s Purpose

**Materials Needed:**

- Author’s Purpose Worksheet
- Author’s Purpose Powerpoint
- Classroom chalkboard, whiteboard, chart, or other visual place to write

**TEKS:**

**7.Fig19A** - Establish purposes for reading selected texts based upon own or others’ desired outcome to enhance comprehension.

**Objectives:**

Students will consider different reasons authors write and identify that as the “Author’s Purpose”

Students will discuss four main purposes for writing – persuade, inform, entertain, express

Students will read a short biography on Eleanor Coerr, and after discussing the four author’s purposes, students will make a determination as to which purpose they believe Coerr wrote Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes and give a reason to show their understanding.

**Vocabulary to know:**

**Author’s Purpose** – the reason an author wrote a piece of writing

**Persuade** – to convince

**Inform** – to teach or share information

**Entertain** – to provide an enjoyable experience for the audience

**Express** – to share thoughts or feelings

**Hook:**

-Ask students to think of all of the reasons they might write something and share them with a partner.

-On a visually accessible place, as a class write down all the reasons the students might write and see if they can be separated into similar categories

**Introduction:**

- Show students the novel Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes and allow students to share possible reasons they believe Coerr may have written the novel
- Using the author’s purpose powerpoint, go through the four commonly known purposes for writing together as a class.

-For each of the four main purposes, monitor comprehension by checking to see if the students are able to identify any texts they know for each of the purposes.

**Activity:**

-Give students the author's purpose worksheet and allow them to read through the short biography on Eleanor Coerr.

-Sharing with a partner, allow the students to think about why Coerr may have written Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes using the facts they wrote about Coerr and the author's purpose powerpoint information.

-On their worksheet, have students *explain* why they believe Coerr wrote her novel.

-In closing:

-allow students to share their thoughts

-ask why it might be helpful to know the author's purpose as the reader of the story

**Extension Activities:**

-After completing the author's purpose worksheet, have students write a paragraph to explain how Eleanor Coerr might have been able to change her purpose in telling the story of Sadako. How could she have made her purpose to be informative rather than entertaining? How could she have made her purpose expressive?

-Using the internet, allow students to see if they can find other information on Sadako that was written for different purposes. Have students make a bibliography page for their peers, so they may show more information about Sadako that was written for a variety of purposes.