Author's Purpose

Grade 2 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the best answer.

READ THIS FIRST

A Soft Rumble

Why do cats purr? Many people think a purring cat is always a happy cat. That is often true, but cats purr for more than one reason.

First, here is how a cat makes the sound. A cat has a voice box in its throat. Tiny muscles there tighten and relax very fast, many times each second. As the cat breathes in and out, air moves past these muscles. This makes the steady rumble we hear.

Kittens begin to purr when they are only a few days old. At first, they cannot see or hear well. Purring lets the mother cat know her kittens are close and doing fine. The mother often purrs back, and the kittens can feel her rumble.

Grown cats purr when they feel calm, such as while being petted. But cats also purr when they are scared, sick, or hurt. Scientists think purring may help a cat calm itself down. Some even think the soft shaking might help sore bones and muscles heal.

So a purr does not always mean a cat is happy. A purr can be a sign of comfort, or a way to find comfort. To learn how a cat feels, watch its ears, eyes, and tail too.

1. Besides why cats purr, what other question does the author answer?
   - How does a cat make the purring sound?
   - How loud can a cat purr when it is happy?
   - Why do old cats purr less than young cats?

2. What does the author mainly want to explain?
   - the different reasons cats purr
   - how kittens learn to see and hear
   - how to tell when a cat is sick

3. Why did the author write this text?
   - to tell a funny made-up story about a purring cat
   - to teach readers that cats purr for many reasons
   - to teach readers how to care for a new kitten

4. Why did the author include paragraph 3?
   - to show that cats purr when they are hurt or scared
   - to tell how fast kittens grow in the first month
   - to explain how purring helps kittens and their mother

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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