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. Why does the author say that many people think a purring cat is always happy?
   - to set up the idea that purring has other reasons too
   - to show that people know everything about cats already
   - to prove that purring always means a cat is happy and calm

2. Why does the author end with the tip about a cat's ears, eyes, and tail?
   - because a purr alone may not show how a cat feels
   - because kittens cannot see or hear well at first
   - because cats purr with their ears and tail together

3. Which question could a reader answer using paragraph 4?
   - When do kittens begin to purr?
   - What part of a cat makes the purr?
   - When do grown cats purr?

4. What does the first sentence of the text do?
   - It tells readers what they should do right away.
   - It tells a fact about baby kittens in the spring.
   - It asks the question the text will answer.

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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