

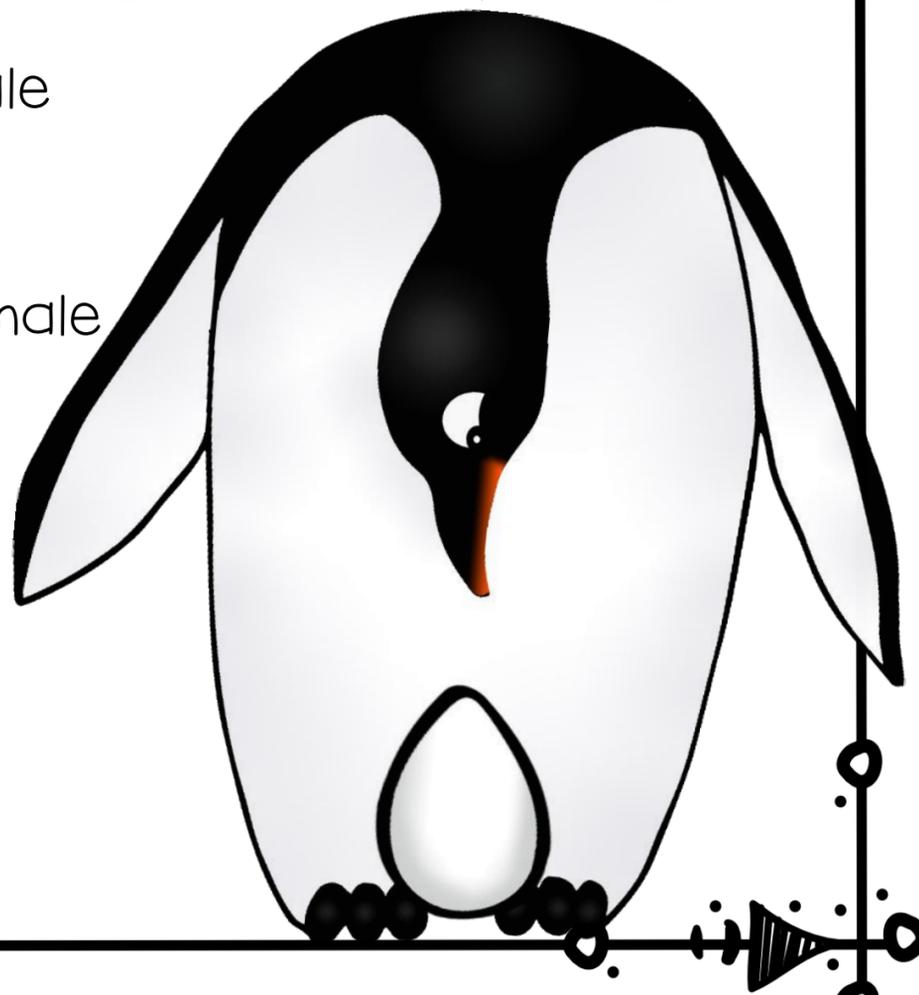
Emperor penguins have unique breeding behaviors that are unlike any other penguin species. Following courtships that last several weeks, each female penguin lays one single egg and then departs to retrieve food from the sea. It takes about 65 days for the female penguins to make the entire journey to the sea and back to their eggs.

While the female penguins are gone, the fathers balance the eggs on their feet. They keep the eggs warm by covering them with their brood patch, a thick layer of feathered skin. The male emperor penguins huddle together, protecting their eggs during the coldest and darkest part of the year in Antarctica. Male emperor penguins typically lose half of their body weight during this period.

The female penguins usually return with food for their chicks just a few days before the eggs hatch. The male partners, who have been anticipating their partner's arrival, leave immediately for *their* opportunity to travel to the sea for food. When the chicks hatch from their eggs, each mother feeds its chick by regurgitating food it has already eaten directly into its chick's mouth. For the next several months, the males and females alternate duties caring for their chick and hunting for fish to eat.

What was the author's purpose for writing the above passage?

- A. to persuade readers how brave male emperor penguins are
- B. to inform readers of the unusual breeding behaviors of male and female emperor penguins
- C. to explain how the male emperor penguin successfully keeps its egg warm
- D. to inform readers of the use of an emperor penguin's brood patch



"When am I going to return to normal?" Percy Penguin asked his mother.

"What are you talking about, my dear?"

"Our feathers!! We are shedding them all over the place, and I look *ridiculous*. I have random patches of ugly old feathers along with my new, sleek feathers," Percy complained.

"Just be patient, Percy. This happens to all of us once a year, so we are all in the same boat. Our new feathers are pushing the old ones out. The entire process takes about four weeks for us, so we are about halfway done already," Mom cheerfully responded.

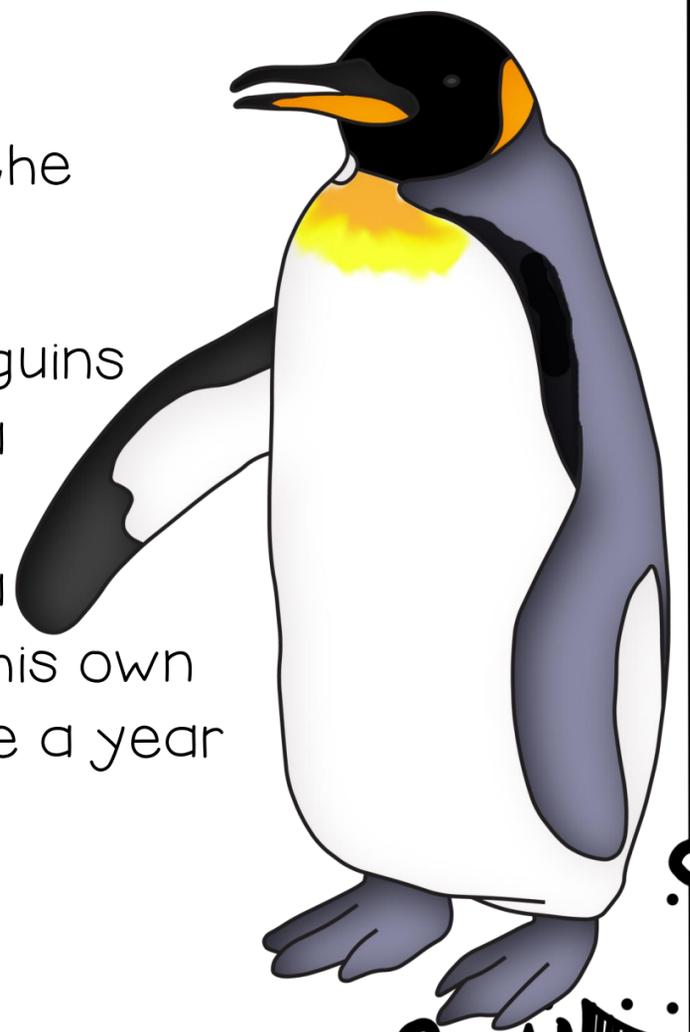
Percy gasped. "Are you *kidding* me? I really have to endure this for another two weeks? But I'm *starving* because you said I can't go into the water when I am molting."

Percy's mom had grown weary of her son's pessimistic attitude. Her tone turned business-like. "Percy, I've heard enough whining from you. Trust me. You *will* survive. Go for a waddle and try to take your mind off your troubles."

Percy turned away and muttered under his breath, "Easy for her to say... she's not a growing penguin like I am. I bet I am way hungrier than she is right now."

What was the author's purpose for writing the above passage?

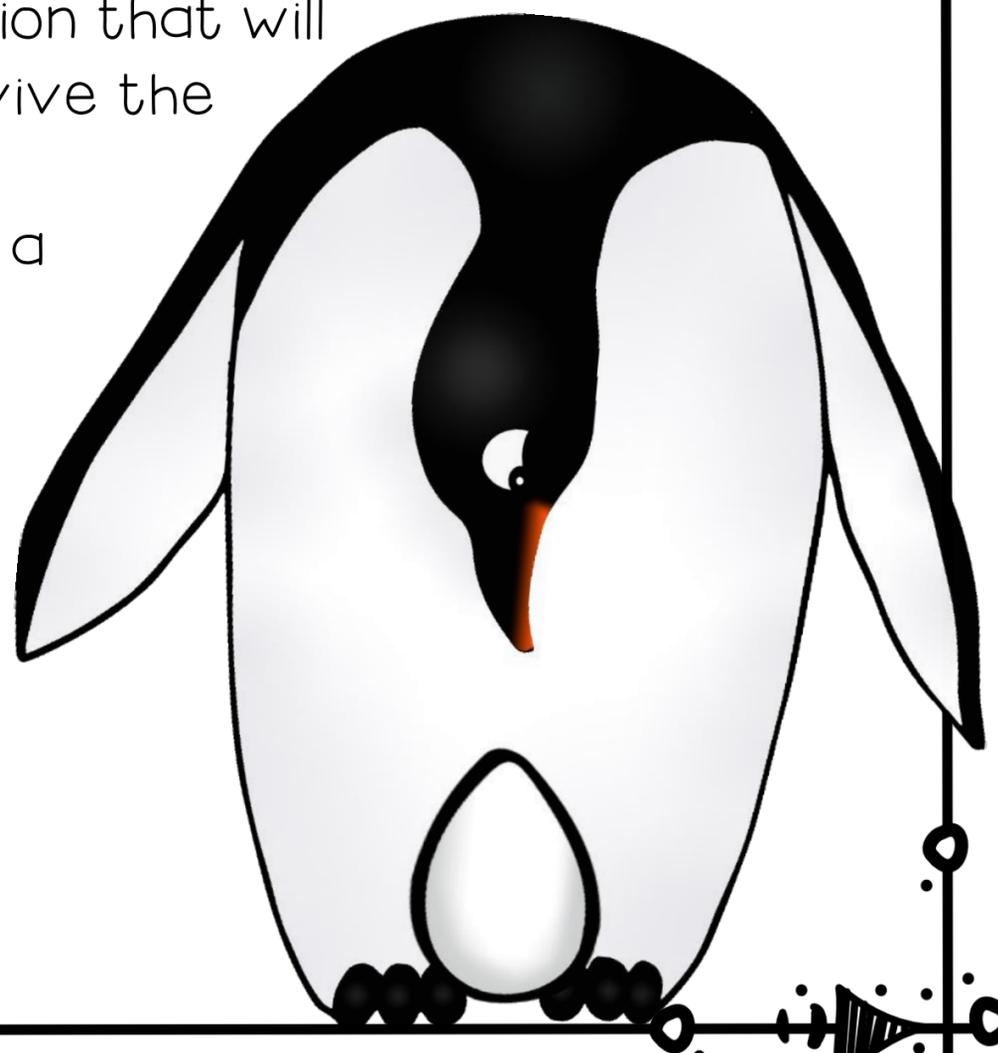
- A. to explain the process of molting for penguins
- B. to entertain readers with a story about a young, grumpy penguin
- C. to entertain readers with a story about a penguin leaving his mother to set off on his own
- D. to inform readers how penguins molt once a year



There is a fierce blizzard raging all around the Antarctic plain, yet the male emperor penguins remain in place, huddled together. The icy temperature seems to have frozen in place at 76 degrees below zero, but the mass of penguins does not seek shelter from the harsh weather conditions. Their only concern at the moment is the safety and temperature of the fragile eggs balanced on their feet. The biting 124 mile-per-hour winds pummel them day and night, minute by minute, but still they stand. They haven't eaten a thing for nearly two months, but still they stand. Darkness almost constantly surrounds them, but still they stand, enduring some of the harshest weather conditions on earth, all for the life of their chicks, growing inside the eggs.

What was the author's purpose for writing the above passage?

- A. to describe the harsh conditions that male emperor penguins withstand to care for their eggs
- B. to inform readers of winter weather conditions in Antarctica
- C. to persuade readers to take action that will help male emperor penguins survive the winter weather in Antarctica
- D. to inform readers of how fragile a penguin's egg is



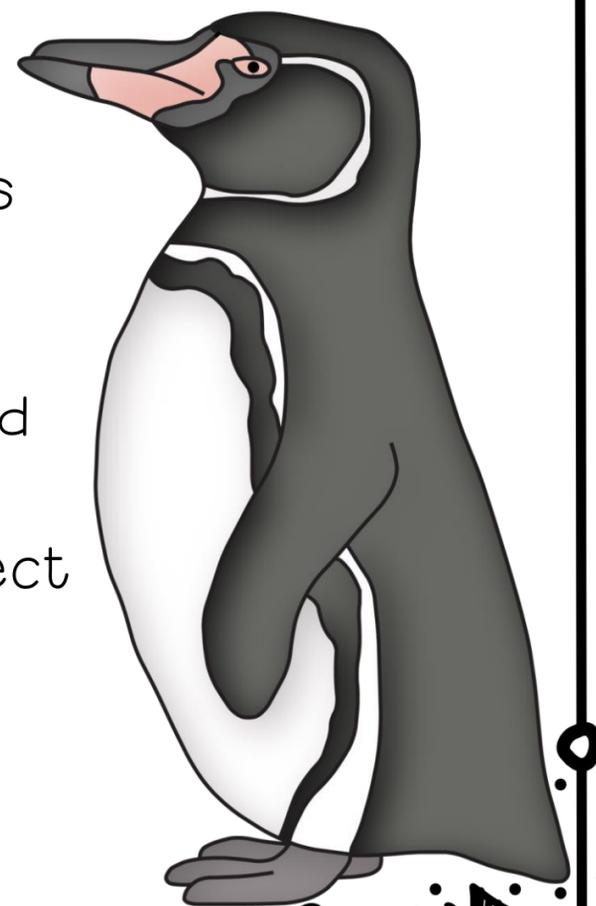
We've all heard about global warming, right? The rising Earth temperature has caused ice-covered areas on our planet to melt away. The disappearance of ice is a major threat to animals like penguins. Less ice means less habitat and less food for penguins. Penguin populations have decreased by 80% in some areas of the Southern hemisphere, and most scientists agree that climate change is the primary cause of this grim statistic.

For instance, African penguins eat sardines and anchovies that follow a cold current of water. As the ocean heats up, their food source is moving further away from their habitat. If the current continues to move, the penguins will end up losing their food source, as they can only swim about 25 miles from their home.

We need to unite to protect endangered animals like penguins, by working together to stop global warming. Walk or ride your bike instead of driving short distances. Share rides whenever possible. Write to lawmakers requesting that they create laws that protect the environment. We need to take action *now* to prevent penguins and other endangered animals from becoming a part of the Earth's past.

What was the author's purpose for writing the above passage?

- A. to explain how the Earth's environment is changing
- B. to persuade readers to help African penguins find a new food source before they become extinct
- C. to persuade readers to help save endangered animals by working to stop global warming
- D. to explain how laws are written to help protect the environment



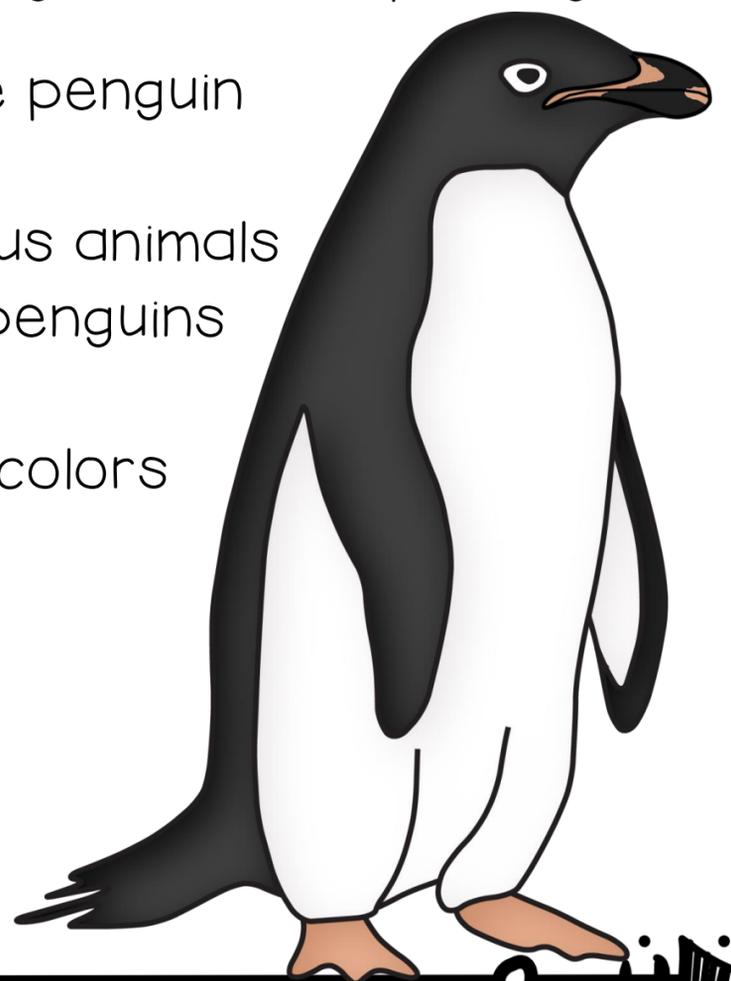
Penguins are well-known for their black and white coloration. Do you know *why* they are covered in black and white feathers, though? Their two-tone color pattern is actually an adaptation that helps them survive from predators while they are in the water.

Leopard seals and orcas are the main underwater predators of penguins. However, the penguins' white bellies make them more difficult to see underwater because their bellies blend in with the snow and sunlight above. When orcas or other predators are swimming below the penguin, they are well-camouflaged.

Penguins also have predators that circle the skies above, waiting to attack a distracted penguin. Skuas and Australian sea eagles like to eat penguins. In this case, it's the penguins' black backs that help camouflage and protect them. When penguins are swimming in search of food themselves, their black backs blend against the dark ocean water, making it much more difficult to spot them from above. Clearly, the black and white coloration of penguins is not an unimportant coincidence. Rather, it is an important adaptation key to their survival.

What was the author's purpose for writing the above passage?

- A. to inform readers of which animals are penguin predators
- B. to explain how camouflage helps various animals
- C. to persuade readers to help protect penguins from predators
- D. to explain how penguins' two feather colors help protect them from predators



A Note to Teachers: An Explanation of the PIE'ED Approach

When I first started teaching "Author's Purpose" to my elementary students, I taught the PIE method - "persuade", "entertain", and "inform". We read books and passages, and then determined which of those three categories best matched what we had just read.

However, I soon became frustrated when I didn't see improvement in this area in my students' performance on standardized tests. I dug into it to try to figure out why this was the case, and ultimately realized that standardized test answer choices are usually not limited to "persuade", "entertain", and "inform". Instead, they include words like "describe", "explain", and "narrate". Furthermore, the answer choices might have, for example, "inform" in two of the options, so students need to take it a step further to determine exactly what the author is attempting to inform the reader.

As a result of my findings, I decided to make my own author's purpose materials - worksheets, games, activities, and task cards - that I felt better prepared my students for the types of questions they would find on standardized tests, and that matched the lesser known "PIE'ED method." I now feel that my students are better prepared for those questions regarding author's purpose on standardized tests. I hope that *you* find them useful, too, and your students find themselves better prepared for standardized tests.

-Deb

When You Might Use These Passages

Here is a look at how I arrange my study of Author's Purpose:
(The words written in italics show the resources that I use.)

Day 1- Introduce PIE'ED acronym. (*Author's Purpose PIE'ED PowerPoint*)

Day 2- Review the PIE'ED acronym. Present short passages to the whole group, and have them only identify whether the author's purpose was to persuade, inform, entertain, explain, or describe. (*PIE'ED posters; various worksheet passages; play Concentration game in small groups if we have time*)

Day 3- Students write their own passages to demonstrate their understanding of the differences between the 5 PIE'ED verbs (*Mini book project*)

Day 4- Increase the rigor by pointing out that sometimes test authors require students to identify the main idea as part of the author's purpose. Look at example test prep passages under the document camera (*penguin passages*). Have students begin to work through *Author's Purpose Task Cards* independently.)

Day 5- Independent practice for students (*finish Author's Purpose Task Cards independently*)

ANSWER KEY

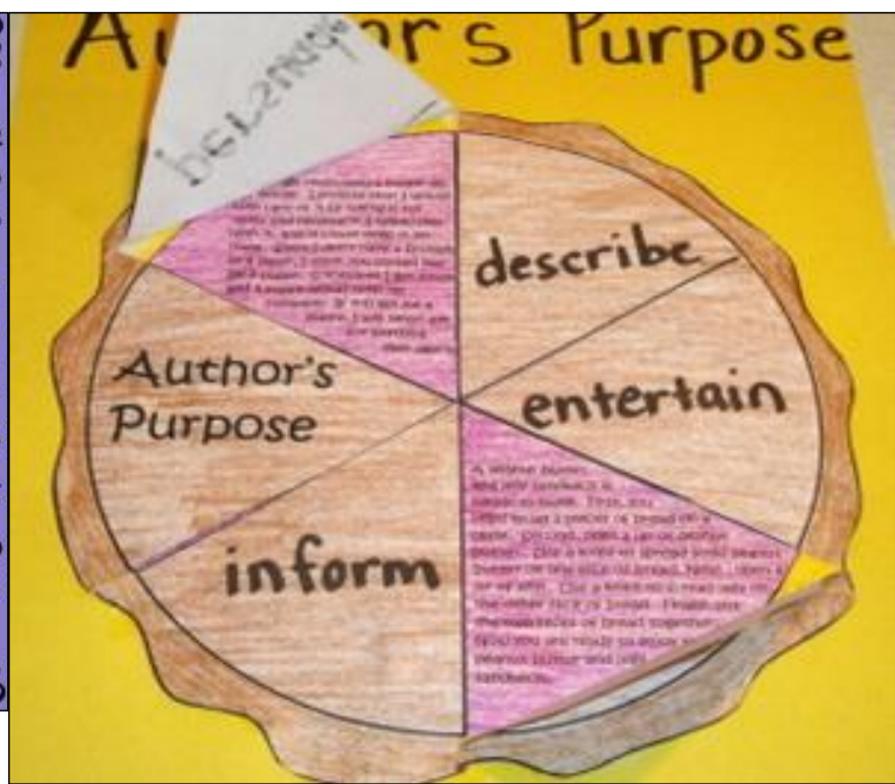
1. Emperor penguins... **B**
2. "When am I going to return to normal?"... **B**
3. There is a fierce blizzard... **A**
4. We've all heard about global warming... **C**
5. Penguins are well-known for their black and white coloration... **D**

Author's Purpose

welcome to my
PIE-ED CLASS

...where I share 5 delectable
"flavors" of Author's Purpose Pie!

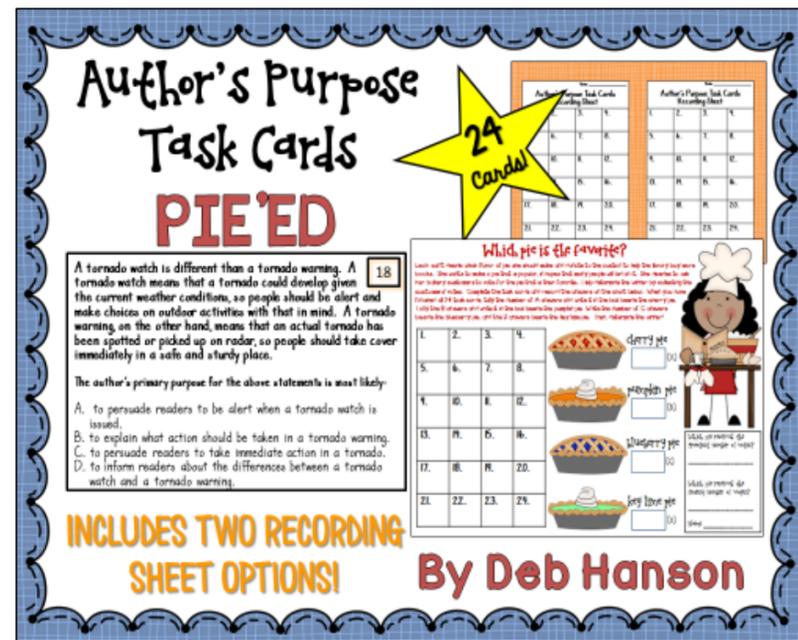
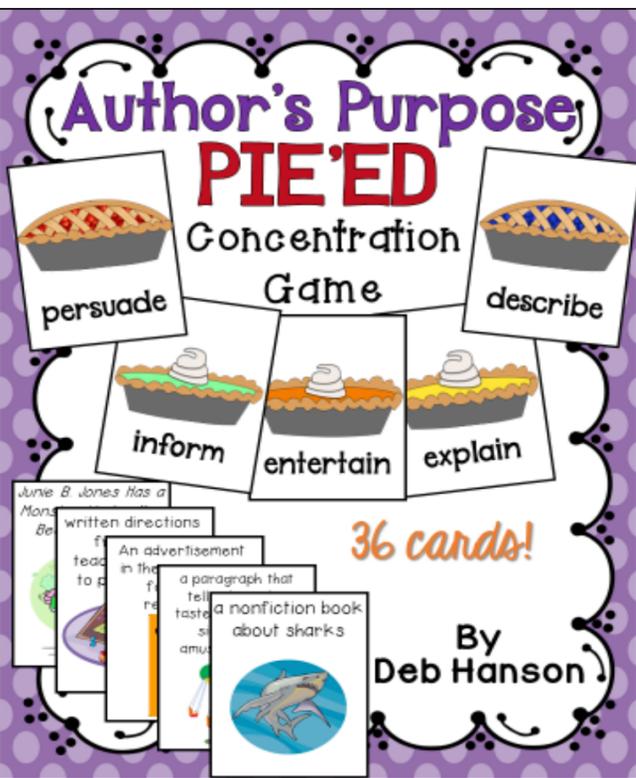
By Deb Hanson



**Additional author's
purpose PIE'ED
materials are available
in my store!**

**PowerPoint
Task Cards
2 Craftivities**

**Worksheets
A Game
And more!**



**persuade inform explain
entertain describe**

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