# SKILL: Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and PurposeThe Working Tools of Insects4th Grade Nonfiction

Source: Public Domain, adapted by Center for Urban Education, may be copied with citation.

Insects are wonderful. You need to look closely to learn about them. If you watch them, you will learn a lot.

I wonder if you know that the smallest insects you see about you all have tools that were given to them with which they do their work. There is a little fly called a sawfly, because it has a saw to work with. It is really a much nicer saw than you could make, if you were ever so bold.

The fly uses it to make places where the eggs will be safe. What is even more strange is that it has a sort of homemade glue that fastens them where they are laid.

Some insects have cutting instruments that work just as your scissors do. The poppy-bee is one of them, whose work is wonderful. This bee has a boring tool, too. Its nest is usually made in old wood. This borer cleans out the nest to make it ready for use.

When all is ready the insect cuts out pieces of leaves to line the nest and to make the cells. These linings are cut out in the shape of the nest. You would be surprised to see the care taken to have every piece of leaf cut so that it is just the right size, so that it will fit just perfectly. When they are fitted, the pieces are nicely fastened together and put into the nest.

Other animals have tools, too. For example, birds have bills or beaks. They use them to get food. A woodpecker uses its bill to drill into trees. And then the woodpecker gets food. The woodpecker eats insects. So one of the other tools insects need is a way to escape. Some fly, some crawl. They're all part of nature. Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question	Directions:	Choose t	the best	answer for	each gu	lestion.
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1. How do you think the writer feels about insects?	2. Why does the writer tell about the poppy- bee?
a. He hates them.	a. so you know what it is
b. He likes them.	b. so you learn how they make nests
c. He likes birds better.	c. to show they are smart
d. He does not care about them.	d. to show that insects have tools

3. Why does the writer tell about the woodpecker?	4. What might the writer say about nature?
, hannung it in hatter then insente	a. It is dangerous.
a. because it is better than insects	b. It is wonderful.
b. so you know that animals have tools	c. It is everywhere.
c. so you know that they eat insects	
d. to show how animals are different	d. It is what you should learn.

5. Write your own answer to this question. Why do you think the writer wrote this passage?

### TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	d	b	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. To help interest people in nature.

## SKILL: Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose

## Why Did Mamma Change Her Mind?

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fiction

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Mamma Miller told Fay and Lonnie that they might have a party, so they tried to get ready for it. Mrs. Miller said they could invite ten children. "You write to five girls, Fay," she said, "and Lonnie will write to five boys."

Lonnie and Fay sat on the couch and tried to think who they would like to come to their party. "Make out your list first," said Lonnie. Fay did, and her brother agreed to all the girls.

As soon as Lonnie started writing his names, Fay began to find fault. "I don't like boys, anyway," said Fay, "only you, Lonnie. Let's have all girls at our party."

"But it won't be my party too," said Lonnie, "if you have all girls."

"I don't care, all of those boys are horrid," Fay said, pointing to his paper.

"You say that because you don't like boys," he said and then told his sister that every boy whose name he had written was just as good as gold. They were just as good as Lonnie Miller himself was, and everybody said he was one of the best boys that ever lived.

"I won't play with him if he comes," Fay kept saying to every name Lonnie wrote.

"You can have your party," said Lonnie, getting up out of the easy chair and sitting down in a smaller one, "you and your girls. I'm going to play my video game."

"I don't like boys," Fay kept saying, jumping down off the arm of the chair. "But I like video games. Can we have your games at our party?"

Lucia, their older sister, was passing the door just then, so she thought she would stop and see what all the noise was. "I'm calling Mamma."

Mamma came hurrying in. When they told her about the invitations, she said, "Your brother has been very good about this party. He was willing to let you have it with just girls. But I said it would be a party for both of you. So it will be a party for none of you. There will be no party."

"But you said we could have a party for ten people," Fay said.

"I said that you could have a party for ten children, five boys and five girls. You took all ten and that is not fair. So there will be no party. When you learn to share, then you will have a party."

So there was no party. Months later, Mamma asked again, "Shall we have a party?" What do you think happened?

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

<ul> <li>6. What do you think the writer wants the lesson of this story to be?</li> <li>a. Boys and girls are both good.</li> <li>b. Being fair is important.</li> <li>c. Brothers and sisters argue.</li> <li>d. Mothers know best.</li> <li>7. Why did the writer end the story with no party?</li> <li>a. To show what happens when someone does something wrong.</li> <li>b. To show that Lonnie was right.</li> <li>c. To show that Fay was selfish.</li> </ul>	Directions. Choose the best answer for each question.			
<ul> <li>a. Boys and girls are both good.</li> <li>b. Being fair is important.</li> <li>c. Brothers and sisters argue.</li> <li>d. Mothers know best.</li> </ul>	6. What do you think the writer wants the	7. Why did the writer end the story with no		
b. Being fair is important.something wrong.c. Brothers and sisters argue.b. To show that Lonnie was right.d. Mothers know best.c. To show that Fay was selfish.	lesson of this story to be?	party?		
d. To show that Lucia tattled.	<ul><li>b. Being fair is important.</li><li>c. Brothers and sisters argue.</li></ul>	something wrong. b. To show that Lonnie was right.		

8. What do you think the writer feels about Fay?	9. How do you think the writer feels about Lonnie?
a. She needs to act better.	a. He is mean.
b. She should like boys.	b. He is selfish.
c. She is a good daughter.	c. He is generous.
d. She is a bad sister.	d. He is a bad brother.

10. *Write your own answer to this question.* The writer ends with a question—what do you think the writer hopes the answer will be?

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**Answers:** You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	b	а	а	С

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. The writer probably wants people to answer that they will have a party if Fay shares the list.