

The House

The two boys ran until they came to the driveway. "See, I told you today was good for skipping school," said Mark. "Mom is never home on Thursday," he added. Tall hedges hid the house from the road so the pair strolled across the finely landscaped yard. "I never knew your place was so big," said Pete. "Yeah, but it's nicer now than it used to be since Dad had the new stone siding put on and added the fireplace."

There were front and back doors and a side door that led to the garage, which was empty except for three parked 10-speed bikes. They went in the side door, Mark explaining that it was always open in case his younger sisters got home earlier than their mother.

Pete wanted to see the house so Mark started with the living room. It, like the rest of the downstairs, was newly painted. Mark turned on the stereo, the noise of which worried Pete. "Don't worry, the nearest house is a quarter mile away," Mark shouted. Pete felt more comfortable observing that no houses could be seen in any direction beyond the huge yard.

The dining room, with all the china, silver, and cut glass, was no place to play so the boys moved into the kitchen where they made sandwiches. Mark said they wouldn't go to the basement because it had been damp and musty ever since the new plumbing had been installed.

"This is where my Dad keeps his famous paintings and his coin collection," Mark said as they peered into the den. Mark bragged that he could get spending money whenever he needed it since he'd discovered that his Dad kept a lot in the desk drawer.

There were three upstairs bedrooms. Mark showed Pete his mother's closet that was filled with furs and the locked box that held her jewels. His sisters' room was uninteresting except for the color TV that Mark carried to his room. Mark bragged that the bathroom in the hall was his since one had been added to his sisters' room for their use. The big highlight in his room, though, was a leak in the ceiling where the old roof had finally rotted.

Name:
Instructor:
Course:
Date:

Finding Purpose Activity

Whenever one reads, it is important to establish a purpose for that reading. In order to understand the importance of purpose and how to establish one, please follow the following activity directions:

1. Read the selection *The House* by Picher and Anderson. As you read, circle whatever you feel is important.

Do not read or go to the next step until you complete this one.

2. Share what you thought was important with your elbow partner. What was the same? What was different?

Do not read or go to the next step until you complete this one.

3. Reread the selection again. This time underline all the places in the text a prospective home buyer might think important. Mark an "H" below each underline you make.

Do not read or go to the next step until you complete this one.

4. Reread the selection one more time. This time underline all the places in the text a robber might find important. Mark an "R" below each underline you make. If it matches to a previous underline, add the "R" next to the "H"

Do not read or go to the next step until you complete this one.

5. Note the differences between your first read (without a purpose) and the next two reads (with purpose). How much easier was it to find information (evidence)? Did the information you collect change when your purpose changed? Jot your thoughts about the different readings here:

Do not read or go to the next step until you complete this one.