

2nd
READ

Comprehension Skills

☆ Author's Purpose

- ◆ Explain that every text is written for a purpose. The four main purposes for writing are to inform, to explain, to entertain, and to persuade. Sometimes authors use one main purpose; other times they have a main purpose and some minor purposes.
- ◆ Have students discuss Mary Satchell's main purpose for writing this play. Does she have minor purposes? **Possible Answers** *A play is written to be performed in front of an audience, so her main purpose is to entertain. OR The play tells us about Langston Hughes's life, so her main purpose is to inform. It also entertains, so entertainment is her minor purpose.*



Expanding Vocabulary

setting (se' • ting) *n.* where an event takes place
The park by the lake was a perfect *setting* for our picnic.

sighs (siz) *v.* form of **sigh**: to make a sad sound
The tired parent *sighs* when he hears his baby crying.

stubborn (stu' • bûrn) *adj.* unwilling to change
The *stubborn* child refused to budge.

earnestly (ûr' • nâst • lē) *adv.* seriously; with importance
The doctor *earnestly* told the patient to take the medicine.

Señora Garcia (*Dusting vase*): 1

You are a true artist, Señor Langston. (*Turns; sighs*) It is too bad that your father does not understand. You two belong to different worlds. You are a dreamer, and he is such a practical man.

Langston (*Thoughtfully*):

Father and I still don't know each other very well. (*Rises*) Since I arrived, he's been trying to make me into what *he* thinks I should be. 2

Señora Garcia (*Putting hands on hips*):

I have been your father's housekeeper for a long time. Señor Hughes is a very stubborn man. But I'm sure he wants the best for you because you are *hijo querido*—his only son. (*Door slams off. Langston and Señora Garcia turn.*)

Langston (*Tensely*):

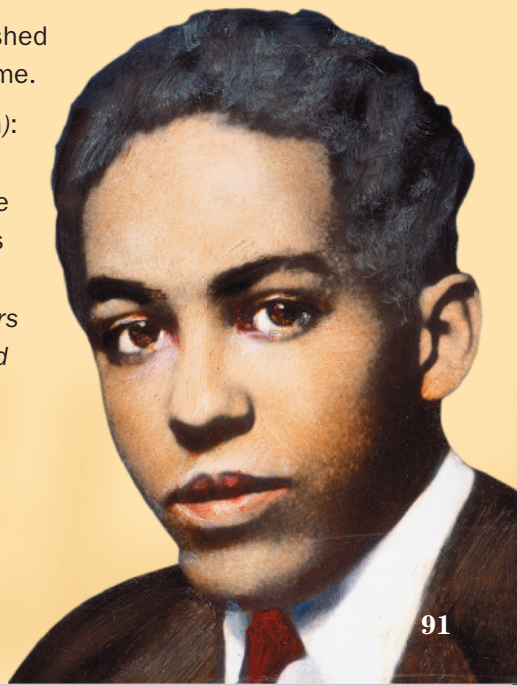
That must be Father, and I haven't finished those accounting problems he left for me.

Señora Garcia (*Giving ledger to Langston*):

Quickly, Señor Langston! Take this ledger and give me those papers you've been writing on before your father sees them. He will be angry to find you have been writing poems. (*She sweeps papers into desk drawer, but one falls unnoticed to the floor.*) 3

Langston (*Earnestly*):

But, Señora Garcia, I can't be a make-believe son for my father any longer.



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Vocabulary Tip

Point out the word *tensely*. Ask students to use context clues to determine what the word means.