

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## What Is the Author Doing?

**Directions:** Read each passage carefully. Then answer the question: **What does the author want the reader to know or feel?** Write a thoughtful response using **textual evidence** to support your answer.

1. The city once bustled with life, but now the streets are quiet, interrupted only by the wind scraping paper across cracked sidewalks. Storefronts display faded "For Lease" signs, and weeds climb up through the cracks in the pavement. Yet here and there, signs of resilience remain—a small bookstore still opens its doors every morning, a mural brightens the side of a worn brick building, and an elderly man waters the flowers outside his apartment, just like he always has.

**What does the author want the reader to know or feel?**

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2. Many people believe that memory works like a recording—that we can play back moments exactly as they happened. But in reality, memory is much more fragile. It's shaped by emotion, time, and even suggestion. Studies show that people often remember events differently based on how they felt at the time, or what others told them later. This means that our memories are not perfect records of the past—but ever-changing stories we tell ourselves.

**What does the author want the reader to know or feel?**

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3. My father used to hum the same tune every morning while he made coffee. It wasn't until he passed away that I realized how much that simple sound grounded me. Now, when the mornings are quiet, I catch myself humming it without thinking—filling the silence with something warm and familiar. Grief, I've learned, is not just sadness. It's remembering all the little things you didn't know you'd miss.

**What does the author want the reader to know or feel?**

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